ONTARIO PARKS

Quetico

Preliminary Management Plan

Ontario

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Opportunity to Comment

Ontario Parks is preparing a management direction document for Quetico Provincial Park as part of a multi-staged planning process. After careful consideration of related planning information and review of comments received thus far, this document outlines Ontario Parks' draft policies for Quetico Provincial Park. This preliminary plan contains proposed site objectives, policies and actions related to managing the protected area's natural, cultural and recreational values. The approved management plan will guide the management of Quetico Provincial Park over the next 20 years.

Implementation projects that require further evaluation in accordance with *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* are summarized in Appendix D. The completed screening tables for each project listed in Appendix D have been retained in the planning information file.

Under section 10 (6) of the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006*, landholders, local governments, interested groups and persons including Aboriginal people and members of the public are invited to comment on the preliminary management plan. Publication of this preliminary management plan provides an opportunity for Aboriginal and public involvement to comment and help form the management direction for this Provincial Park. This is the final opportunity for comment.

To make your submission effective, please list the topic/s you wish to discuss and briefly state your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposed management direction. You may also make suggestions or comments on other topics important to you. Respondents wanting their commercial business information to remain private should mark those parts of their submissions 'confidential'. When preparing final plans, the Ministry of Natural Resources will consider all submissions on this preliminary management plan.

For further information on the preliminary management plan or the planning process, please contact Michèle Proulx, Ontario Parks Northwest zone office, telephone (807) 475-1477, during business hours.

Written suggestions, comments and submissions should be made by **November 29, 2013**. These should be addressed to the Park Superintendent, Quetico Provincial Park and sent to:

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MNR is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of Ontario's *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. However, your comments will become part of the record of consultation and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by MNR to send you information about future MNR planning initiatives in the area. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact the Michèle Proulx at (807) 475-1477.

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Context

Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act

The *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA) is the legislation that guides the planning and management of the protected areas system. The PPCRA has two specific principles that guide all aspects of planning and management of Ontario's system of provincial parks and conservation reserves:

- Maintenance of ecological integrity shall be the first priority and the restoration of ecological integrity shall be considered
- Opportunities for consultation shall be provided. 2006, c. 12, s. 3

The *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA) requires that management direction is prepared for each protected area in Ontario. This plan fulfils this requirement, and provides the long term direction for managing the protected area, including the purpose and vision, objectives, zoning, protected area policies and implementation priorities. This management plan is written with a 20 year perspective in mind.

Planning Context

This park management plan has been prepared consistent with direction contained in Our Sustainable Future: A Renewed Call to Action, Ministry of Natural Resources Strategic Directions (OMNR 2011), in Biodiversity: It's In Our Nature (OMNR 2012) and in Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (OMNR 1992). Additionally, Quetico Provincial Park will be managed to protect any species at risk and their habitats in a manner consistent with the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA) and regulations.

All activities undertaken in Quetico Provincial Park must comply with A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (Class EA-PPCR; OMNR 2005b), where applicable.

Aboriginal Peoples

This preliminary management plan does not intend to affect, diminish or extinguish Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and associated traditional uses.

Quetico Provincial Park is located within the boundaries of lands covered by Treaty #3. All members of Treaty #3, including Couchiching First Nation, Lac Des Milles Lac First Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation (LLCFN), Naicatchewenin First Nation, Nicickousemenecaning

First Nation, Rainy River First Nation, Seine River First Nation and Stanjikoming First Nation have an established claim to treaty rights by commitments made under that treaty and by virtue of their proximity to Quetico Provincial Park.

Quetico Provincial Park is located in proximity to three Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) asserted harvesting territories. The closest modern day Community Councils that may have an interest include Northwest (Dryden), Kenora, and Sunset Country (Fort Frances).

In recognition of the Aboriginal archaeological features located within the park, Ontario Parks will have special regard for local particular interests. Respect and protection of archaeological and cultural features are integral to this park management plan. Aboriginal communities will be consulted on related issues of concern during the implementation of this plan.

Lac La Croix and the Agreement of Coexistence

A major amendment was initiated by the LLCFN in 1992 to temporarily expand the number of lakes permitting motorized access by the Lac La Croix Guides Association (LLCGA), which resulted in the Agreement of Co-existence (1994) and the Revised Park Policy (1995). This agreement between LLCFN and the Province of Ontario, represented by the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister for Native Affairs, was intended to redress the First Nation for their displacement from their traditional homeland and loss of economic opportunities and to work towards the provision of opportunities for employment and economic diversification.

The Agreement of Co-existence established a framework for long-term employment targets, spiritual and cultural use of Quetico, management and interpretation of Aboriginal resources, co-management of mechanized guiding activity, and year-round road access to the First Nation community. Key elements of the agreement included creation of a mechanized guiding zone for members of the LLCGA (Wilderness Zone 2) to be co-managed with LLCFN; relocation of the Lac La Croix entry station to the community of Lac La Croix; and a commitment to open communications between LLCFN and Quetico Provincial Park.

Since 1995, this agreement has facilitated the development of a work centre and park entry station at the Lac La Croix community. It has also provided yearly funding which the band uses to support staff positions at the village work centre/entry station, at the Beaverhouse entry station, as well as an interior portage maintenance crew. Park warden and natural heritage education positions have also been funded. See Appendix A for the governing principles of the Agreement of Co-existence.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

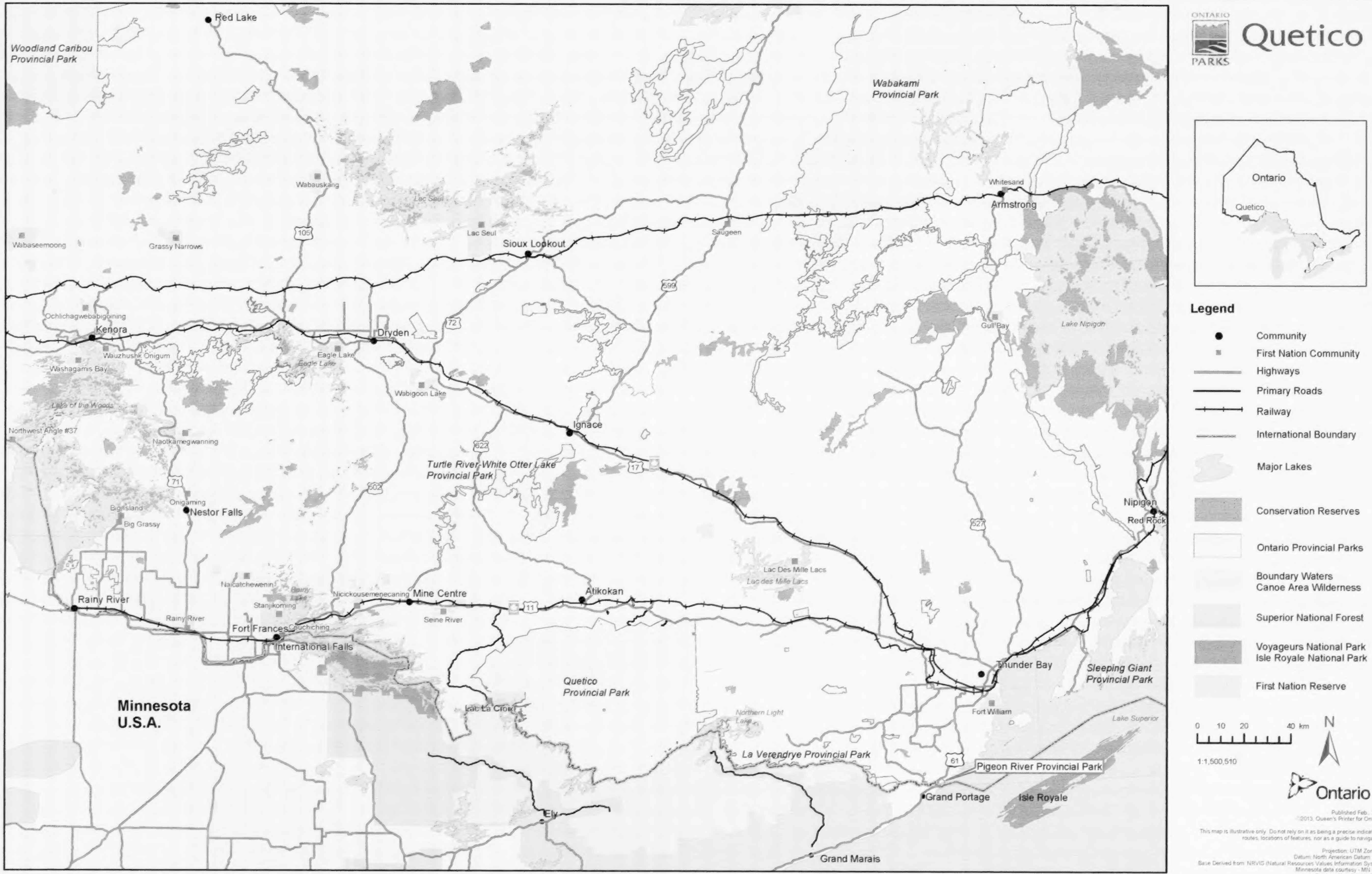
Quetico Provincial Park is located in the judicial district of Rainy River and within the Fort Frances District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Quetico Provincial Park encompasses 4718 km^2 (471,878 hectares) of rugged Canadian Shield with numerous lakes and streams. Quetico is located in northwestern Ontario, south of the town of Atikokan, approximately 160 km west of Thunder Bay and adjacent to the Canada - United States (U.S.) boundary (see Figure 1 for regional context). The park occupies a zone of transition between the boreal forests to the north, the mixed forests to the south and the Great Plains forests to the west and southwest. The southern boundary of the park lies on the Canada - U.S. Boundary, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) within the Superior National Forest, while Voyageurs National Park abuts the international boundary just to the west of Quetico. These American protected areas share recreational and interpretive themes with Quetico (Figure 1). In 1996, the Canadian side of the waterway along the international border was also designated by the Canadian federal and Ontario provincial governments as part of the Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway, a Canadian Heritage River.

The Neguagon Indian Reserve (LLCFN) abuts the southwest boundary of the park, where it spans 62.1 km^2 along the northern shore of Lac La Croix (INAC 2005). This community of approximately 350 people is home to the LLCFN, and serves as a western administrative area for the park (see Figure 2 for local context). The Township of Atikokan with a population of 3,000 is located immediately north of Quetico, and serves as base for park administration.

In 1909, Quetico Forest and Game Reserve was established to protect wildlife values. Earlier that same year, in the adjacent American state of Minnesota, the Superior National Forest was founded to enhance forest management. Quetico Provincial Park was regulated as a provincial park in 1913, and was classified as a wilderness park in 1977. There are no commercial tourism facilities located within the park boundaries. Quetico has had a management (master) plan in place since 1977 which has been reviewed and updated regularly (1982, 1988, and 1995). The park's abundant waterways, rich cultural history, wild undeveloped landscape and relative lack of mechanized travel, all contribute to its reputation as an area of unparalleled wilderness canoeing opportunity (Figure 2).

The PPCRA, which governs activities within provincial parks, applies only to lands and waters within the regulated boundaries of parks and conservation reserves. Ontario Parks is committed to an ecosystem approach to park planning and management. This approach allows park managers to consider the relationship between the park and the surrounding environment. Park managers may consider potential impacts on park values and features from activities occurring on adjacent lands, and potential impacts from park activities on land uses in adjacent areas.

FIGURE 1 - REGIONAL CONTEXT



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Projection: UTM Zone 15
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived from: NRVIS (Natural Resources Values Information System)
Minnesota data courtesy - MN DNR
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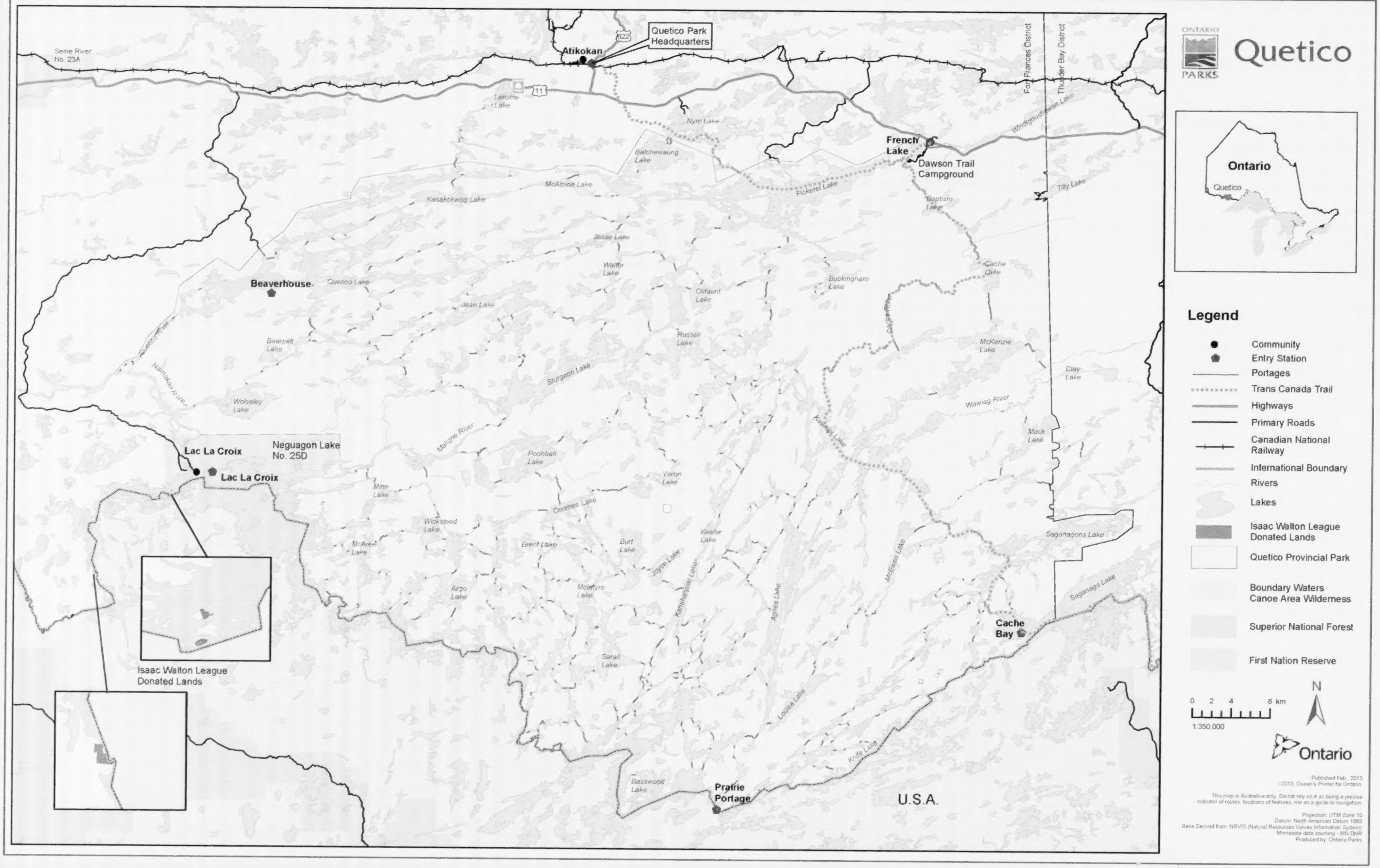
FIGURE 2 - PLAN AREA



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Projection: UTM Zone 15
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived from: NRVIS (Natural Resources Values Information System)
Minnesota data courtesy - MN DNR
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Park management plan policies apply only to the area within the regulated boundary of the park. Within the park boundary, the protection of park values and features will be achieved through appropriate zoning, control of land use and activities, education, and monitoring of ecological impacts.

Quetico Provincial Park is governed by Ontario's PPCRA, Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (OMNR 1992a) and Ontario's Living Legacy - Land Use Strategy (OLL-LUS; OMNR 1999).

2.0 CLASSIFICATION

Through park classification, Ontario's provincial parks are organized into broad categories, each of which has particular purposes and characteristics.

Quetico Provincial Park is classified as a wilderness park. The class target for wilderness parks is to establish at least one in each of Ontario's 13 ecoregions. Quetico Provincial Park fulfils the representation target for wilderness class parks in ecoregion 4W. As a wilderness park, Quetico's primary emphasis will be protection.

Quetico Provincial Park is currently an operating park. A park operations plan has been prepared to provide park staff with the necessary direction to operate the park on a day to day basis. In addition to addressing the operations policies that follow, the plan includes such topics as budget, staffing, maintenance schedules, enforcement, NHE, and emergency services. The provisions of the plan will be consistent with the approved Ontario Provincial Parks Minimum Operating Standards, and will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

The operating status of provincial parks is determined by Ontario Parks based on visitation and use, analysis of revenue and expenditures, and infrastructure needs. Changes to a park's operating status may be made by MNR without the provision of external involvement.

3.0 VISION

The vision for Quetico Provincial Park is:

To protect in perpetuity, for the people of Ontario and the world, an area of wilderness that allows the forcesof nature to function freely and which includes a representative portion of the ancient geological history, modern biological environments, the landform-vegetation associations, and the cultural features associated with ecoregion 4W, while allowing opportunities for non-mechanized, nature-based, ecologically sustainable outdoor recreation.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

Quetico will be planned, managed and operated as a wilderness park in accordance with the PPCRA: "*The objective of wilderness class parks is to protect large areas where the forces of nature can exist freely and visitors travel by non-mechanized means, except as may be permitted by regulation, while engaging in low-impact recreation to experience solitude, challenge and integration with nature.*" 2006, c. 12, s. 8 (2).

There are four objectives for Ontario's provincial parks: protection, recreation, heritage appreciation and scientific research. Each park in the system may contribute in some way to each of these objectives, depending on its resource base. Quetico Provincial Park contributes to the achievement of all four objectives.

4.1 Protection

To protect the provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Quetico Provincial Park from human influence or disruption by permitting the forces of nature to function freely, only taking management action where necessary to maintain or restore the ecological integrity of the park and its features.

Ontario's protected areas play an important role in representing and conserving the diversity of Ontario's natural features and ecosystems across the broader landscape. Protected areas include representative examples of life and earth science features, and cultural heritage features within ecologically or geologically defined regions. Ontario's ecological classification system provides the basis for the life science feature assessment, and the geological themes provide the basis for earth science assessment.

The protection objective will be accomplished through appropriate park zoning, resource management policies, research, and monitoring.

4.1.1 Lac La Croix First Nation

This plan reflects and supports a renewed relationship between the Lac La Croix First Nation and the land base known as Quetico Provincial Park, which is regarded by the First Nation as sacrosanct, while acknowledging the wilderness values of this park policy.

An Agreement of Co-Existence was negotiated in 1995 between the government of Ontario and the Lac La Croix First Nation to frame this relationship and it continues to provide direction in this plan.

4.1.2 Earth Science

Bedrock Geology

Quetico Provincial Park lies on the southwestern portion of a vast area of ancient rock known as the Canadian Precambrian Shield (the Shield). The Shield forms the foundation of the North American continent and consists of some of the oldest rocks on earth. It is divided into provinces and subprovinces on the basis of overall differences in internal structural trends, age, lithology (rock types), metamorphic grade (alteration) and style of folding (Thurston 1991). Quetico Provincial Park lies within the Superior Structural Province of the Shield, and encompasses portions of two subprovinces, the Wawa Subprovince in the southeastern portion of the park, and the Quetico Subprovince in the remaining portion of the park. All the rocks within the park boundaries are of Archaean age, having last been affected by a major period of mountain-building during the Kenoran Orogeny some 2 700 to 2 500 million years before present.

A sedimentary-volcanic sequence known as the Poohbah Lake Complex is located at Poohbah Lake. It is an alkaline intrusive sequence comprising syenite and nepheline syenite associated with sheets of leucogranite. The complex is significant in that it is one of the oldest known alkaline intrusives in the Shield, with an age of some 2 700 million years (Williams 1991). The type locality[1] of the rock malignite, a potassium syenite, is located along the shores of the Maligne River as part of the Poohbah Lake Complex in the park (identified by Lawson in 1896).

Surficial Geology

In the Quetico area, the Wisconsinan Stage was witness to many advances and retreats of the continental ice masses, though only the features associated with the last of these, the Late Wisconsinan, are preserved. The ice withdrew from the area of the park for the last time about 11 000 years before present as the ice front stabilized briefly along the Steep Rock Moraine and the subsequent Eagle-Finlayson Moraine. Glacial Lake Agassiz was in contact with the ice margin along its northern shoreline, and covered most of the low-lying areas in the Rainy River valley (Barnett 1992).

Glacial and postglacial features and landforms left behind by the last glacial retreat in the park include two sets of glacial striae, reflecting local variations in the movement of the ice, segments of two recessional moraines (a type of end moraine) associated with ice-halt positions during the retreat of the final ice sheet, raised shoreline features and lacustrine deposits of glacial Lake Agassiz, and bare to sporadically mantled bedrock, the result of wave-washing of the Shield by the waters of glacial Lake Agassiz. The predominant surficial deposit in most of the park consists of a thin, discontinuous mantle of sandy till deposited as a ground moraine.

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[1] A type locality is one in which the original, or subsequently designated, type representative of a named feature was first identified and described. It constitutes the standard for the definition and recognition of that feature, in this case, the rock malignite, named for its occurrence at Maligne Lake. The type locality identifies the first place that the rock malignite was identified, described and named. Type localities are generally used to identify and compare other occurrences of that rock (Kor 2007).

4.1.3 Life Science

Quetico Provincial Park has a number of life science features that are of ecological, interpretive and educational significance. A number of significant communities are found in Quetico. These communities are of interest for a number of reasons. Some of the communities are biologically diverse, contain high levels of rare species, or are of value to the Natural Heritage Education (NHE) Program.

Quetico Provincial Park is situated in ecodistrict 4W-1, within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region, and borders the Boreal forests to the north and the Great Plains forests to the west and southwest. As a result, Quetico is characterized as containing a mixture of mostly northern, as well as some southern and western elements, resulting in a diversity of plant species typical of the different regions. To date, 666 plant species have been identified in the park, the majority of which are terrestrial. The aquatic plant community has not been sampled to the same degree, and there are likely many more plant species still to be recorded.

Efforts will be made to enhance protection of species at risk and to prevent and /or mitigate the introduction of invasive species.[2]

Red and White Pine Communities

Large stands of old growth red and white pine are rare in Quetico. Two significant stands are known to occur in the park and both have been subjected to low intensity fire. The largest stand of red pine occurs in the vicinity of McNiece Lake and Shan Walshe Lake. The other significant stand in the Camel Lake area is dominated by white pine although red pine is an important component. These forest communities are also significant for their fire research and natural heritage appreciation values.

Eastern White Cedar Communities

Extensive stands of eastern white cedar are largely absent from the majority of the park, but can be found on greenstone bedrock in the southeast corner of the park. Many of these communities are significant as old growth features. One significant old growth eastern white cedar community is found on Emerald Lake. Associated ground flora includes false Solomon's seal, dwarf horsetail and blunt-leaved orchid. Another significant eastern white cedar community is located near Belaire Lake. This community is a pure cedar stand situated in a depression on metamorphic bedrock. Two southern species found here are jack-in-the-pulpit and blunt-leaved orchid, both of which are abundant here but locally rare.

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[2] Invasive species are alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, and/or society including human health. Ontario's definition of an invasive species may include those species which are native to Ontario, but have been introduced to a new geographic region due to human activity (OMNR 2012).

Hardwood Forest Communities

A rich trembling aspen community on clay soil is found on Wolseley Lake. Because deep pockets of clay are rare in Quetico, the floristic diversity at this site is locally significant. Components of the community are Saskatoon berry, black snakeroot, white rattlesnake-root and purple oat.

Two forest communities that contain large red maple have also been identified. In the area between Poohbah and Berniece Lakes, the forest community is dominated by white birch and trembling aspen with an abundance of large red maple. Pure stands of red maple are found in the vicinity of Glacier Lake, where the red maple stands are smaller inclusions within a trembling aspen forest. These hardwood forests are rare in Quetico. In addition to their ecological value, they also have a high value for education and research purposes.

Mixedwood Forest Communities

A significant white pine and yellow birch forest community exists along the portage between Lindsay and Cache Lakes. This is the best and largest example of this community type found in the park to date. Yellow birch is locally rare in the park, and can only be found throughout the park as minor inclusions in other forest types.

Red oak is a hardwood species that is locally significant. In the park it is found in mixed forest communities, usually growing in association with red pine. Red oak is fairly abundant along the Maligne River and in the red pine stands in the Shan Walshe Lake area.

Open Wetland Communities

A number of bog communities in Quetico support locally rare orchid species. Swamp pink orchid and rose pogonia have both been documented at two bogs in the vicinity of Bearpelt Lake and Star Lake. Walshe (1980) noted that the Bearpelt Lake bog is significant as every stage of bog development can be found here.

Rich marsh communities are rare in Quetico. Bearpelt Creek Marsh is an extremely rich marsh and contains the only local occurrence of pickerel weed. Rich wetland communities are important for the high level of biodiversity present, and are also important moose aquatic feeding areas and provide important habitat for waterfowl.

Shoreline Communities

Significant open shoreline communities that support prairie species exist along Lac La

Croix in Martin and Rice Bay, and on Iron Lake. Locally rare freshwater cordgrass is generally found growing close to shore, with big bluestem growing higher on the shore in drier soils.

Floodplain Communities

The physiographies of the Wawiag and Cache River floodplains are extremely rare in Quetico and northwestern Ontario. Deep glaciofluvial outwash and alluvial deposits of sands and gravels were deposited here when glacial Lake Agassiz occupied the area. In later, quiet-water times of the lake, silts and clays were periodically deposited in association with the nearshore and outwash sediments, creating an extremely fertile alluvium.

The floral diversity of the Wawiag River floodplain is perhaps greater than anywhere else in Quetico, with many southern and western species present. Near the mouth of the Wawiag at Kawa Bay, a silver maple community with white elm is found on the narrow levee. Fringed loosestrife and sessile-leaved bellwort are abundant in the herbaceous layer. Hawthorn spp. and chokecherry are co-dominant, with nannyberry and highbush cranberry common associates. Hops are also present at this site, found growing on the upright shrub species. Locally rare herbaceous species found in this forest community include smooth carrion flower, ostrich fern, and cow parsnip.

Within Kawa Bay, the provincially rare red-disked water lily is abundant, growing in association with softstem club-rush, river club-rush, and narrow-leaved floating burreed.

Farther upstream from this site at the Mack Creek junction is a white elm and red ash community with Manitoba maple occurring as a minor component. Wild ginger is found in this community and it is the only one of two known location of this species in the park.

A number of significant floodplain communities exist along the Namakan River. A red ash - silver maple stand with bur oak can be found along the shoreline. Herbaceous flora associated with this community include: poison ivy, royal fern, small sundrops and sand cherry. Located behind the red ash - silver maple community is a trembling aspen – white elm community with a large component of basswood, bur oak and red maple. Associated with this community are many southern herbaceous plants including: sessile-leaved bellwort, carrion flower, false Solomon's seal, and jack-in-the-pulpit, downy yellow violet and alternate-leaved dogwood.

Cliff Communities

Provincially rare basic cliff communities are found along the Man Lakes Chain, Emerald and Ottertrack lakes and on a tributary of the Wawiag River. Other basic cliffs may exist in the park, but have not been reported to date. The *Basic Open Cliff Type* is provincially rare and ranked S3S4 (Bakowsky 2002).

Most of the basic cliffs in the park are covered in the calcium loving orange lichen, making identification of these cliff types quite easy. The north-facing Emerald Lake cliff community has a cooler than normal microsite that supports many arctic disjunct species including smooth cliffbrake, encrusted saxifrage, smooth woodsia, as well as two provincially rare species, limestone oak fern and snowy cinquefoil. Maidenhair spleenwort is also found at this location, and is only one of two known locations in the park. The other location is at a cliff found at the narrows on Agnes Lake, where the provincially rare limestone oak fern is also found. Disjunct northern and western plant species have persisted at these cliffs for thousands of years.

Mammals

Forty-three mammal species have been recorded to date in the park, representing 61% of Ontario's mammal list (excluding non-native and marine mammals). Because of the relatively large size of Quetico Provincial Park and its position adjacent to the BWCAW, the combined protected area is able to support populations of species which require a relatively large home range and/or large portions of contiguous habitat. Such species found in Quetico include black bear, marten, and moose. Other large mammals found in Quetico include gray wolf, lynx, coyote and white-tailed deer. A number of other large mammals can be found in the park but are at the northern limit of their range and occur at low densities, including raccoon, fisher, porcupine and bobcat.

Quetico Provincial Park contains the typical suite of small mammals for the area. A number of shrews, moles, bats, squirrels, voles, mice, and weasels can be found throughout the park. These include the northern short-tailed shrew, star-nosed mole, little brown bat, least chipmunk, woodchuck, woodland jumping mouse, deer mouse, meadow vole, southern bog lemming, red-backed vole, river otter and marten. Other species include mink, red fox, and snowshoe hare.

Birds

As a result of Quetico's transitional character, an overlapping of typically northern, southern, eastern and western species of birds occurs. Some representative species include: common raven, gray jay, black-backed woodpecker, black-capped chickadee, great gray owl, spruce grouse and many species of wood warblers, the Nashville, magnolia and mourning warblers being among the most common. Pine and evening grosbeaks, common redpoll, white-winged and red crossbills, pine siskin and purple finch are some of the very few bird species found in Quetico in the winter months.

Birds at the northern limit of their range include the black-billed cuckoo and indigo bunting while birds common to the western prairies such as the yellow-headed blackbird and western meadowlark have been observed. Quetico is known for its populations of bald eagle and osprey. All three accipiter species in Ontario are found in Quetico, including

Cooper's hawk, northern goshawk and sharp-shinned hawk.

Significant populations of waterfowl do not occur within the park. Common merganser, common goldeneye, black duck and mallard and common loons are the most common breeding species.

Reptiles and amphibians

Eight species of frogs, (including the northern leopard frog, wood frog, boreal chorus frog, and spring peeper), one species of toad (American toad) and two species each of salamanders (the eastern red-backed salamander and the blue spotted salamander), snakes (the common gartersnake, and likely the red-bellied snake as it has been recorded in the Atikokan area) and turtles (the snapping turtle and the western painted turtle) have been recorded within the park. The western painted turtle is a subspecies of the painted turtle, and in Ontario this subspecies is only found in a narrow band in Northwestern Ontario along the Minnesota border. The snapping turtle is ranked as a species of Special Concern.

Fish Communities

A total of 48 fish species have been reported in Quetico. The lakes within the park support fish communities that vary according to local lake characteristics. The broadest classification of these communities is according to coldwater and warmwater habitats. Coldwater communities can include lake trout, lake whitefish, cisco (lake herring), and burbot. Warmwater communities can include walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, yellow perch, black crappie, rock bass, lake sturgeon[3], as well as sunfish species (Crossman 1976).

Invertebrates

Forty-nine species of moths and 31 species of butterflies have been identified to date in Quetico. Only one species has been designated a species at risk: the monarch butterfly is designated as *Special Concern*.

Incidental sampling of dragonflies and damselflies occurred in early August of 2006. The Canada darner and the Atlantic bluet were the most frequently encountered species. Williamson's emerald was captured once, and this species is ranked as S3. The Pygmy Snaketail is a globally rare clubtail dragonfly ranked as a species of Special Concern. This dragonfly is known at only one location in Ontario at Lady Rapids on the Namakan River close to the western boundary of Quetico, where a single exuvium was discovered in June 2007.

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[3] The Lake Sturgeon in northwestern Ontario is "Threatened" under the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) classification and "Special Concern" under the federal COSEWIC system.

4.1.4 Cultural Features

Quetico Provincial Park contains a number of cultural features that are of interpretive and educational significance.

Respect for, and protection of, archaeological and cultural features are integral to the management of this park plan. Couchiching First Nation, Lac Des Milles Lac First Nation, LLCFN, Naicatchewenin First Nation, Nicickousemenecaning First Nation, Rainy River First Nation, Seine River First Nation and Stanjikoming First Nation have an established claim to treaty rights by commitments made under Treaty #3 and by virtue of their proximity to Quetico Provincial Park; they will be involved in related issues of concern during implementation of the plan.

The cultural heritage resources of Quetico Provincial Park are both plentiful and significant, representing major expressions of the Aboriginal people of the boreal forest and Canadian Shield and their descendents, as well as Quetico's role and importance to the fur trade period and to the exploration of Canada. Quetico's rich archaeological past can be traced to its origins as part of the corridor between glacial lakes Agassiz and Minong through which the earliest inhabitants moved northeast as the glaciers retreated. The boundary waters corridor of Quetico has also been a major transportation route since the earliest times. The co-operation and partnership among the British fur traders, the voyageurs, and indigenous people was a critical stage in the development of present day Canada, and international co-operation has been integral to the development and preservation of this extraordinary region.

The number of archaeological sites found within the park reflects a high level of prehistoric occupation. The nomadic lifestyle of the first inhabitants, the harsh terrain, and the acidic soils meant that relatively few small and scattered archaeological sites have been located (Dawson 1983, Wright 1995). The sites are often destroyed by rising water levels, invading forests, and acidic soils (Dawson 1983, Wright 1995). As a result, it is likely that many more artifacts may have existed than have been found to date, but were unable to withstand the ravages of time. Many portions of the park have not been explored archaeologically and those that have been surveyed have only been subject to cursory testing and, on rare occasions, limited excavation. As a result, available information about the long period of occupation by Aboriginal people is incomplete.

4.2 Outdoor Recreation

Approximately 26,300 people visit Quetico each year, with 118,000 camper nights (# visitors X length of stay) spent in the park. Approximately 8,200 people visit the campground each year, resulting in 15,000 camper nights in the campground.

Approximately 18,000 people visit the interior of the park each year, resulting in 103,000 camper nights. Since the last management plan review in 1995, there has been a gradual but steady decline in the number of interior park visitors.

In 2011, 7,969 people entered Quetico's interior. Of these, 83% were from the U.S. and 60% of interior visitors entered through the southern boundary of the park. The 2011 Quetico Provincial Park Interior Visitor Survey asked respondents to provide their entry point: 38% of visitors entered via Prairie Portage; another 20% of entries were associated with the Cache Bay Entry Station: these figures represent 58% of entries through the two southern entry stations and eight entry points. Dawson Trail and Atikokan accounted for 31% of all park entries via the northern entries with Pickerel entry point at 16%, Batchewaung at 8% and Cirrus Lake/Sue Falls/Baptism Creek at 7%. Beaverhouse entry station accounted for 9% of entries and Lac La Croix entry station accounted for 6%.

Outdoor recreation will be encouraged to the greatest extent possible without adversely affecting the park environment or visitor experiences.

4.2.1 Quetico Interior

To provide high quality, low intensity, wilderness experiences by providing ecologically sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for extended non-mechanized travel and associated activities throughout the park's interior.

The interior of Quetico Provincial Park offers a variety of recreation opportunities, in an array of natural settings. Recreational activities in Quetico are limited to primitive forms of travel, as well as those activities that are associated and compatible with primitive travel. The types of non-mechanized travel provided for have only been those consistent within the historical context of the park. Permitted activities include:

- Canoeing / kayaking
- Camping (back country)
- Sport fishing
- Nature Appreciation
- Photography / Painting
- Hiking
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-country skiing

4.2.2 French Lake

To provide high quality, moderate intensity, threshold wilderness experiences by providing ecologically sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities/or non-mechanized travel and associated activities based from the Dawson Trail car campground and day-use facilities.

The recreation objectives will be achieved through appropriate park zoning; the identification of management policies to prevent any compromise of significant natural and/or cultural heritage values or the ecological integrity of the park; market research and monitoring; and, mitigating impacts of recreational use.

4.3 Heritage Appreciation

To provide opportunities for structured and unstructured individual exploration and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of Quetico Provincial Park.

This objective will be achieved through the park's NHE Program, structured and unstructured individual park exploration, and through the efforts of other groups such as the Friends of Quetico Park, the Quetico Foundation and the LLCFN. NHE is discussed in Section 8.4.

4.4 Scientific Research

To facilitate scientific research and to provide points of reference to support monitoring of ecological change on the broader landscape.

Ontario's provincial parks play an important role in the provision of places to undertake research activities to: provide a better understanding of park environments, contribute to appropriate park management practices and actions, and provide baseline ecological information that can be used to support ecological monitoring on the broader landscape.

Quetico provides many opportunities for research by Ontario Parks staff, MNR staff, academic researchers and the Quetico Foundation. Research is discussed in Section 8.6.

5.0 BOUNDARY

Quetico Forest and Game Reserve was created in 1909. Quetico was regulated as a provincial park in 1913 and classified as a wilderness class provincial park in 1977.

Park management plan policies apply only to the area within the regulated boundary of the park. Within the park boundary, the protection of park values and features will be achieved through appropriate zoning, control of land use and activities, education, and monitoring of ecological impacts (Figure 3).

Quetico Provincial Park surrounds several patent land parcels, totalling 74.26 ha in area. These lands are not subject to the PPCRA or Quetico Provincial Park regulations, and instead are under the authority of the *Public Lands Act*, and the *Mining Act*. Many are the result of mining claims staked during and after World War II.

There are 3 crown patent properties (2 islands and a mainland parcel at Beatty portage) on Lac La Croix that were donated by the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment to Ontario in 1970 with the expressed purpose of wilderness protection (Figure 2). One island (parcel # CL 155) and the mainland parcel are regulated as Lac La Croix Wilderness Area under the *Wilderness Areas Act*. The other island (parcel # BG372) is included in the general use area (G2564). The reasons why this parcel is not included in the Wilderness Area will be investigated. Land use planning will be initiated for the Lac La Croix Wilderness Area and G2564. This process will determine whether these areas will be added to Quetico Provincial Park, or will be granted some other land use designation.

The Minister of Natural Resources, under the authority of Section 13(1) of the *Public Lands Act*, R.S.O. 1990, may designate any area in the unorganized territories of Ontario as a restricted area. As the designation grants MNR significant control over activities on private land, restricted areas are created by regulation to ensure full oversight of the process. The construction of any building or structure or improvement in the restricted area requires prior approval by a permit issued by the MNR. Current restricted areas surrounded by Quetico Provincial Park are listed in schedules 2 and 4 of O.Reg. 150/12. These restricted areas will continue to control development of private lands surrounded by the park.

The last park boundary adjustment occurred in 2011 when one parcel (29.14 ha) near Lilypad Lake and Saganagons Lake was added to the park. All forms of private land tenure incorporated within the park will, in due course, be acquired by the Crown. Negotiations to acquire the remaining private land holdings will continue as funds and priorities permit.

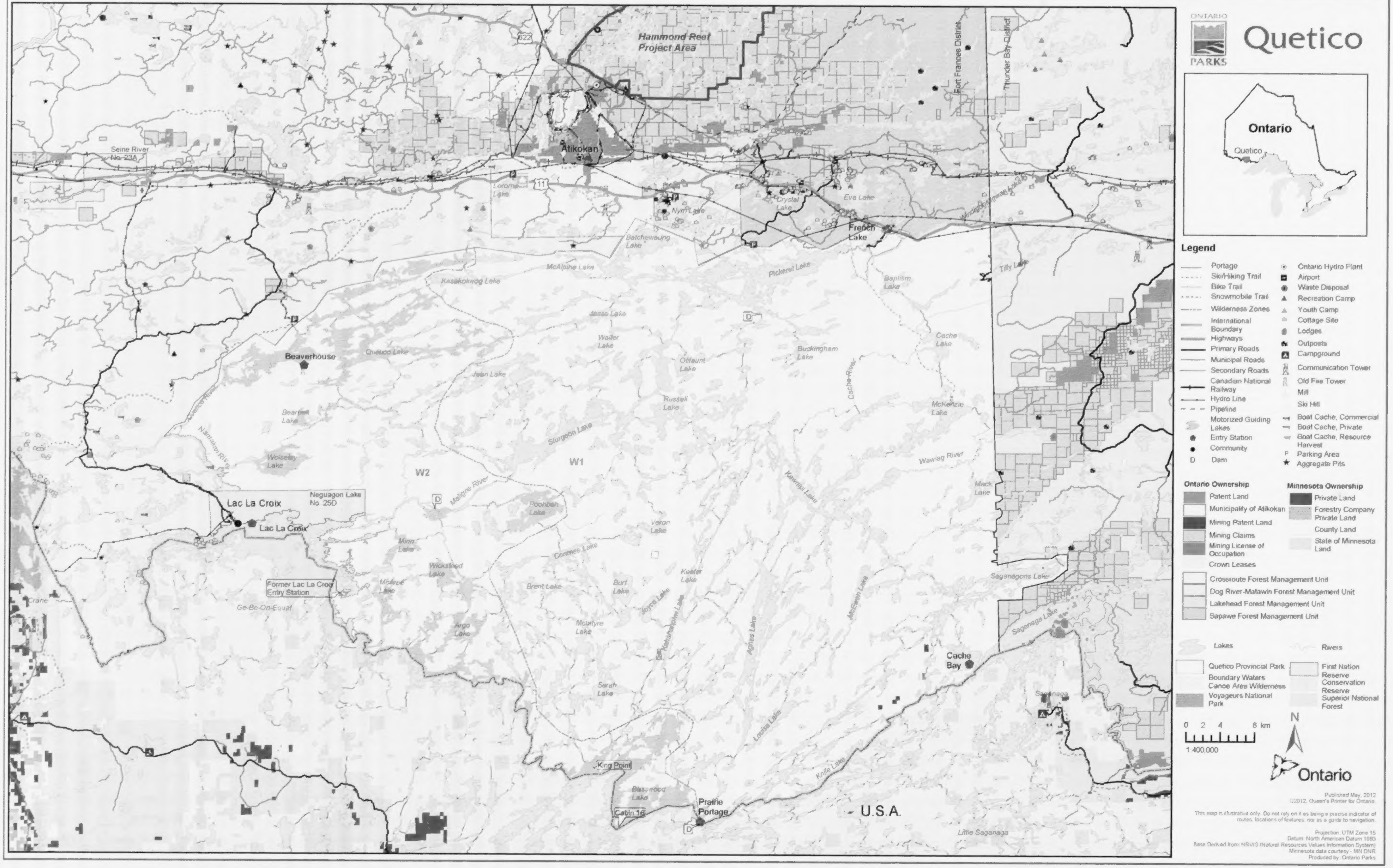
PIN 56067-0026 (63 hectares) south of Veron Lake near Pierna Lake reverted to the Crown in 1936 for tax arrears and it will be added to the park.

6.0 PARK ZONING

Zoning is a key part of a park management plan. Zones fulfill a variety of functions that may include:

- Recognizing the features and attributes of a park;
- Delineating areas on the basis of their need for protection or their ability to protect provincially significant representative features;
- Delineating areas on the basis of their ability to support various recreational activities; and,
- Identifying uses that will protect significant features, yet allow opportunities for recreation and heritage appreciation.

FIGURE 3 - LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT



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Management of the park's resources is consistent with policies in Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies (OMNR 1992a) and OLL-LUS. To date, two types of zones have been employed to guide Quetico's resource management, operations and development; central wilderness zones 1 and 2 (W1 and W2) and peripheral access zones (entry stations).

Two additional zone types are being added in this plan. Historical and nature reserve zones include the French Portage cultural heritage zone, and the Wawaig River Floodplain and the Emerald Lake Basic Cliff Communities nature reserve zones. Wilderness zone 3 (W3) is the candidate wilderness zone encompassing the French Lake access zone (Figures 4 and 4A).

6.1 Wilderness Zones

Wilderness zones (W) include wilderness landscapes of appropriate size and integrity which protect significant natural and cultural features and are suitable for wilderness experiences, as well as a protective buffer with an absolute minimum of development.

The wilderness zones, as shown in Figure 4, occupy all but about 4279 ha of Quetico's approximately 471,878 hectares. The opportunities available within the wilderness zone comprise the *raison d'etre* of the park. Because of its dominance within the park, the wilderness zones are the focus of the detailed policy outline as contained in the following sections. Development will be limited to back country campsites, portages, trails, (and signs necessary for route identification in W3 only). Wilderness campsites will offer limited facilities such as firepits. Box privies may be installed on sites close to entry points that experience heavy use.

Wilderness Zone 1 340,714.4 ha

The W1 zone is comprised of almost three quarters of Quetico's land base, from the eastern boundary of the park to a line that meanders north-south from Sue Falls to Prairie Portage.

One parcel of land formerly part of access zone A2, the second island at Cache Bay, has been added to the W1 zone.

Management intent:

The revered qualities of Quetico, as identified in the park's goal and objectives will be preserved in this zone. This wilderness zone will remain the domain of natural processes; the presence of the recreationist will be that of a privileged visitor, activities will be restricted to those not compromising the integrity of the biophysical base. Mechanized forms of recreational travel will not be permitted.

FIGURE 4 - WILDERNESS AND NATURE RESERVE ZONES

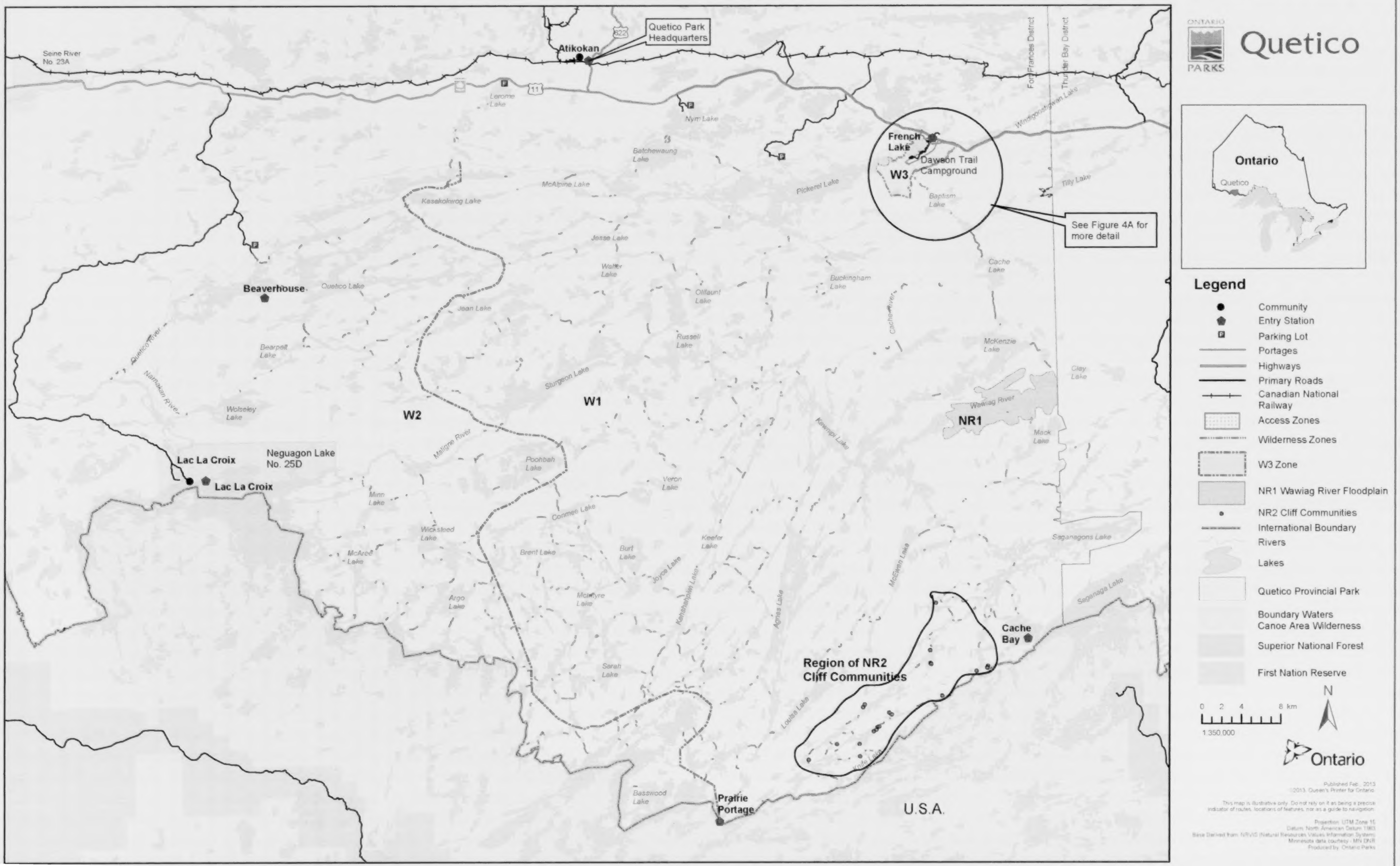

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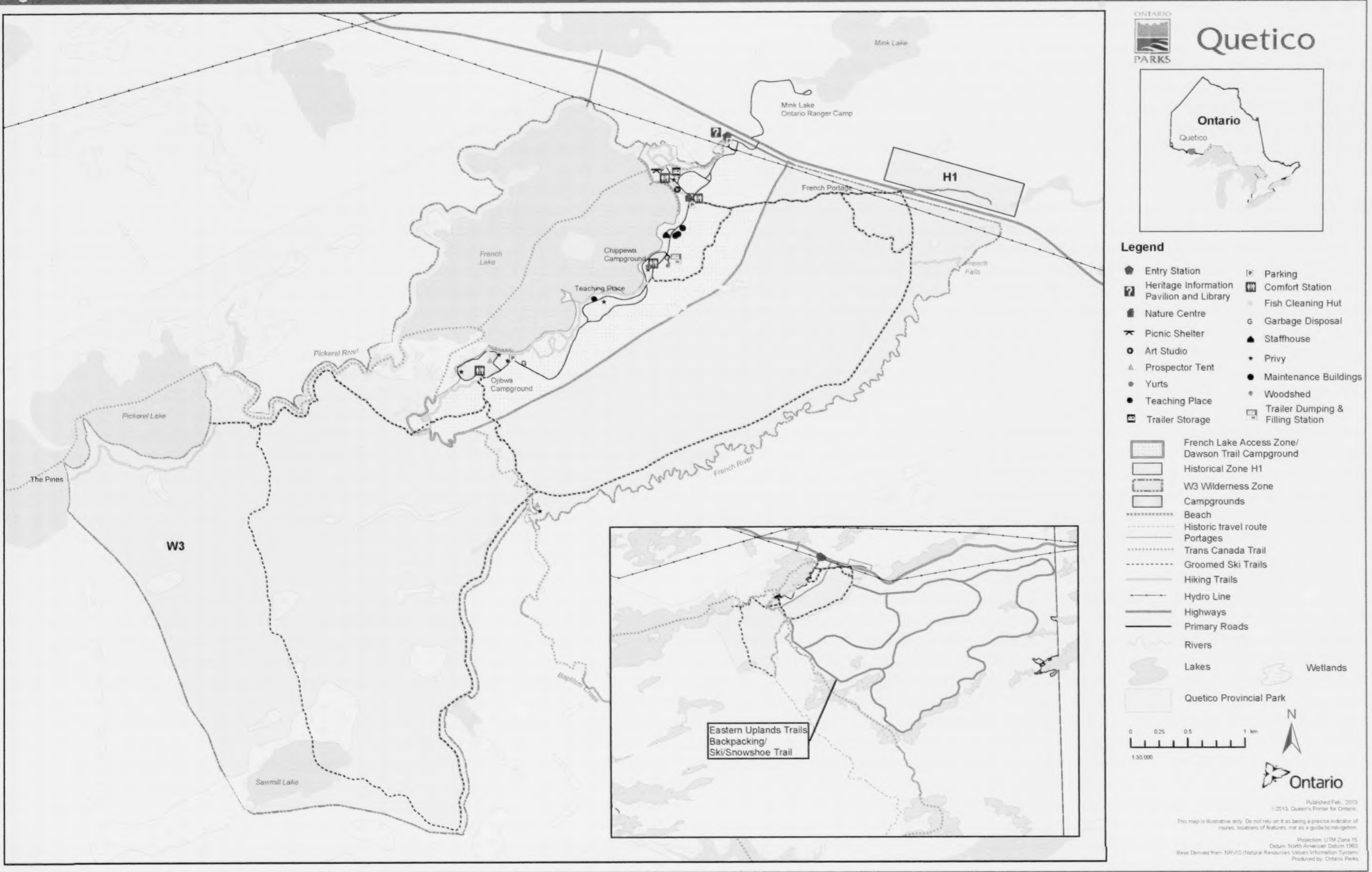
Figure 4A - ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT DETAIL



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Wilderness Zone 2 124,872.4 ha

The W2 zone is delineated to recognize that power boat and aircraft access by the LLCGA, in the short term, is critical for the First Nation to realize its economic development needs and viability.

Two parcels of land, one former part of access zone A4 and all of former access zone A5, have been added the W2 zone:

- A parcel of land at the end of the Beaverhouse access road, formerly part of A4.
- The location (formerly A5) of the former entry station which ceased operation after the 1997 season when the entry station was relocated to a site near the village of Lac La Croix. The original facilities still exist at this location, including: staff quarters with the entry station office, an aircraft landing dock and a cabin for interior crews, which have all fallen into disrepair. The site has been used on occasion by the LLCFN for a Youth Discovery Camp. The buildings on the site will be assessed, and boarded and signed for health and safety issues prior to being demolished and all material removed, in accordance with the Class EA-PPCR and A Technical Guideline for Cultural Heritage Resources (OMNR 2006).

Management intent:

This zone is designated as an area which will be co-managed with the LLCFN. Power boat and aircraft use by the First Nation on lakes and waterways for the purpose of guiding is acceptable. In every other way the zone will be managed in accordance with the wilderness values as set out in the balance of this management plan.

A co-management regime between the First Nation and the Quetico administration has been designed and implemented. It includes a short-term power boat access plan that outlines:

- methods of compliance and enforcement for the First Nation to operate, for the purposes of guiding, power boats of no more than 10 horsepower (7.5 kw) motors and used by a member of the LLCFN, who is also a member of the LLCGA, operated for the purposes of guiding, subject to the annual operating strategy on lakes and waterways within the W2 Zone.
- the use of power boats of unlimited horsepower by a member of the LLCFN who is also a member of the LLCGA, operated for the purposes of guiding on Wegwagum Bay of Lac La Croix up to Twin Falls.
- development of a process to work towards the elimination of power boat and aircraft use for motorized guiding within Quetico Provincial Park and until such time, the mitigation of the impacts of power boat guiding on the Park's wilderness values including the minimization and discrete location of aircraft landing sites and/or boat caches. This motorized guiding activity is anticipated to be phased out by January 1,

2016.

- potential consideration of the need for overnight guided trips by the Implementation Committee in light of the goal to eventually eliminate mechanized guiding from the park. Additional impacts on the resource and on other park visitors are significant considerations in arriving at a decision.
- the use of aircraft landings required to facilitate day-use guiding by a member of the LLCFN who is also a member of the LLCGA, subject to the annual operating strategy of the W2 zone.

Wilderness Zone 3 1,993.7 ha

The W3 zone encompasses the shoreline of French Lake and the waters of French Lake (excluding the Dawson Trail campground and French Lake access zone) to a distance of 60m from the shore, extending east to the north bank of the French River, extending west to The Pines on Pickerel Lake from Baptism Creek, and south from The Pines to Sawmill Lake on a southeasterly bearing of **63**° as shown in Figure 4A. The size of the zone is approximately 1,993 hectares.

Management intent:

This zone is intended to accommodate a day-use wilderness zone with limited camping in the vicinity of the French Lake access zone and Dawson Trail campground. This zone facilitates the provision of land-based non-mechanized wilderness activities close to the Dawson Trail Campground in order to introduce wilderness travel and camping to campground users. Examples of activities include: hiking, classic cross-country skiing on groomed trails, walk-in campsites, canoe-in campsites and warm-up tents.

6.2 Nature Reserve Zones

Nature reserve zones (NR) include any significant earth and life science features which require management distinct from that in adjacent zones, as well as a protective buffer with an absolute minimum of development.

NR1 Wawiag River Floodplain 3986 ha

The physiography of the Wawiag River floodplain is extremely rare in Quetico and northwestern Ontario. Deep glaciofluvial outwash and alluvial deposits of sands and gravels, silts and clays were deposited creating an extremely fertile alluvium. The floristic diversity of the Wawiag River floodplain is perhaps higher than anywhere else in Quetico, with a high number of southern and western species present. For a detailed description of this floodplain community refer to section 4.1.2.

NR2 Basic Cliff Communities 33 ha

Provincially rare basic cliff communities are found along the following lakes: Blackstone (1), Other Man (3), Ottertrack (10), This Man (3), Littlerock (2), Emerald (12), Fisher (1), Sheridan (1) and on a tributary of the Wawiag River. The *Basic Open Cliff Type* is provincially rare and ranked S3S4 (Bakowsky 2002). This zone is delineated as all of the cliff faces on the listed lakes.

Disjunct northern and western plant species have persisted at these cliffs for thousands of years. Since deglaciation, the surrounding vegetation has undergone drastic changes, while tundra and prairie plants were able to persist in open cliff habitats as the surrounding landscape became forested (Bakowsky 2002). For a detailed description of this basic cliff community refer to section 4.1.2.

Management intent:

The NR zone designation recognizes the fragility of these resources. Only scientific, educational and interpretive use is permitted in this zone. Some minimum impact recreational activity such as hiking is acceptable, provided there is no potential for features to be impacted. Development is limited to trails, directional and interpretive signs and temporary facilities for research and management.

Rock climbing and scrambling, back country camping, and mechanized travel are not permitted in nature reserve zones. Existing campsites in nature reserve zones will be closed and rehabilitated. Commercial trapping in NR zones by Lac La Croix trappers is permitted.

6.3 Historical Zone

Historical zones (HI) encompass the provincially significant cultural resources of a park. They generally focus on a specific site (e.g., area of human occupation site, building(s)) and that site's relationship to the surrounding landscape, and may include a protective buffer around the main feature in the zone.

H1 French Portage 36.2 ha

The French Portage runs three kilometres from the mouth of the French River, at the west end of Windigoostigwan Lake to French Lake. The French Portage is part of the historic Kaministiquia River fur trade route used by the French as well as the British. The Northwest Company and the Hudson Bay Company both used this travel route. It was also used by Aboriginal peoples prior to the arrival of Europeans. In the 1860s it was part of the Dawson Route from what is now Thunder Bay (Fort William) to Winnipeg (Fort Garry). The

French portage historic zone is comprised of the parcel of land on the north side of highway 11 that was added to the park in 1968 to encompass the area of a way station on the French portage (Figure 4A). Excavations of the way station site undertaken by Ken Dawson of Lakehead University yielded a 1871 five cent piece, square nails, and a straight boot - (left and right footed boots were introduced in the 1860s) - in addition to many other artifacts (Dawson and Klinefelder 1971).

The eastern landing of the French Portage (at the west end of Windigoostigwan Lake) was painted by Paul Kane in 1846. Paul Kane (1810-1871) was an artist who was one of the first Canadian artist-explorers to record life in the Canadian Northwest before European settlement, over two journeys between 1845 and 1848 (Noftall 2006).

In the summer of 2006, Ken Lister of the Royal Ontario Museum, discovered that one of Paul Kane's paintings 'French River Rapids' had been painted at the east end of the French Portage at Quetico, not at the French River at Georgian Bay on Lake Huron as it had previously been identified. Paul Kane's own journal makes reference to a sketch at this location and Lister confirmed this by locating the exact site of the painting. This painting portrays an important stage of Ontario's transportation history and the history of Quetico Provincial Park; the French Portage is a part of this history, as are the historic and prehistoric travel routes that traverse Quetico Provincial Park.

Management intent:

Day-use activities (e.g., hiking and viewing) are permitted in historical zones. Camping is not permitted in historical zones. Development is limited to trails, necessary signs, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities, and historical reconstruction where appropriate. Interpretive displays recounting the story of Paul Kane's painting and the fur-trade era use of the French Portage as depicted in the painting will be included in the NHE program at the Dawson trail pavilion.

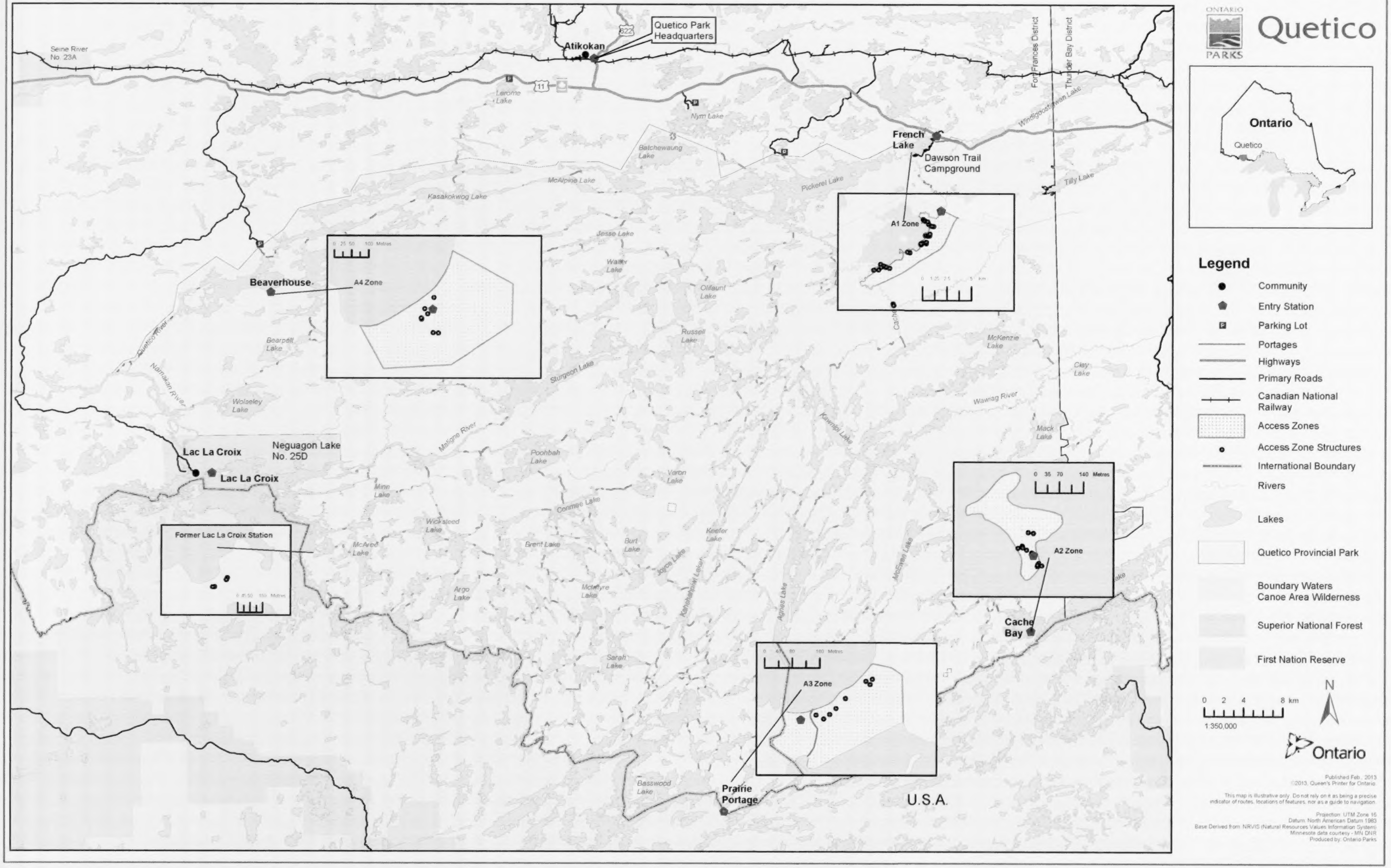
Ontario Parks will work with the Ministry of Transportation to ensure that any upgrade or replacement of the highway bridge adjacent to the Kane site will consider design considerations to facilitate safe pedestrian access.

6.4 Access Zones and Entry Stations

Access zones (A) serve as staging areas, where minimal facilities support the use of other zones such as nature reserve and wilderness. Access zones serve to provide access and regulate use to areas of a park geared towards extensive recreation.

Quetico is served by six entry stations (Figure 5). Beaverhouse Lake, French Lake and Nym Lake provide northern entry opportunities and are accessible by road. Cache Bay

FIGURE 5 - ACCESS ZONES



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(Saganaga Lake) and Prairie Portage (Basswood Lake) are located on the southern boundary and are accessible by water only. Lac La Croix entry station was relocated adjacent to the village of Lac La Croix in 1997. Entry stations provide route information, interpretive information, permit issuing services and also serve as an emergency contact.

Five access zones, each with an entry station, were designated in the former plan. Four of these zones have been retained (Figure 5). The fifth access zone (the former Lac La Croix access zone) has been rezoned as wilderness and added to the W2 zone.

The French Lake access zone (A1) (230.4 ha) contains the Dawson Trail Campground, staff quarters and offices, the Heritage and Information pavilion and John B. Ridley Research Library, day-use areas, the Teaching Place roundhouse, and interpretive, hiking and cross country ski trails.

The Cache Bay access zone (A2) (3.1 ha) consists of one small island on Saganaga Lake. The island contains the entry station with staff quarters, the entry station office, and a storage garage, an aircraft landing dock, and a solar powered composting privy for park visitors. Another island was once part of the A2 zone, as it had a cabin for interior crews, which was removed in the early 1990s. This second island has been added to the W1 zone.

Prairie Portage access zone (A3) (6.1 ha) consists of a peninsula of land adjacent to the Canada - U.S. border between Basswood Lake and Sucker Lake. The entry station has staff quarters, an aircraft landing dock and a hydro-electric powered composting privy for park visitors. The Canada Customs facility ceased operation in 1996 and Ontario Parks has since used the buildings to operate the entry station office, a park's store and to provide accommodations for entry station staff and interior crews. Upgrades to these facilities occurred from 2006-2008.

Beaverhouse access zone (A4) (8.5 ha) consists of one parcel of land on the shore of a small bay on Beaverhouse Lake. This lakeside parcel contains the entry station facilities which include staff quarters with the entry station office, an aircraft landing dock and a small cabin for interior crews. The Beaverhouse entry station is operated and staffed by LLCFN. There is a historic fire tower adjacent to the access zone. The part of the access zone at was formerly at the end of the access road has been added to the W2 zone.

The Stanton Bay forest access road, is located outside of the park boundary north of Pickerel Lake, and provides an alternative entry for Pickerel Lake with a parking lot (also outside of the park) and a boardwalk portage to Stanton Bay. Overnight parking at this location is restricted to Canadian citizens. Due to the fact that the road and parking lot are adjacent to the park boundary access zoning is not required at this location.

Three entry stations are located external to the park.

The Lac La Croix entry station was re-located outside of the park near the village of Lac La Croix in 1997, where it is now operated and staffed by members of LLCFN.

The Atikokan Area MNR office, which is located in Atikokan, houses the Quetico Provincial Park headquarters, as well as the Atikokan entry station. Entries through Batchewaung (via Nym Lake) as well as entries through Sue Falls (via Lerome Lake) are processed at this station. Entry to the park via Batchewaung Lake is reached through Nym Lake, located outside of the park. Quetico Provincial Park maintains facilities at Nym Lake which include parking, vault privies and a dock. Parking is available at Lerome Lake for entry into the park via Sue Falls/Cirrus Lake.

A new entry point will not be considered for the eastern boundary of the park due to concerns regarding the availability of resources for construction and maintenance, road use compliance enforcement, visitor dispersal, and uncertainties regarding long term road access (maintenance) via the sustainable forest licence (SFL) holder. The Mack Lake entry location will be changed to Cullen Lake via the portage from Ross Lake. Aircraft will not be permitted to land on Mack Lake but will land instead outside of the park on Ross Lake. Three entries per day are permitted on Mack Lake. The Mack Lake aircraft landing will be removed from regulation.

Additional designation or improvement of access will be contingent upon site selection and visitor use.

Management intent:

A major emphasis in the planning and management of Quetico is the development and improvement of opportunities for northern access. The implementation of this basic policy will achieve a number of important objectives. Additional northern entry opportunities will facilitate the use of Quetico by Canadians and, in particular, residents of Ontario. In providing viable alternatives to the traditionally heavily used southern entry points, these entry opportunities will encourage user redistribution within the park. The resulting increase in user activity in areas adjacent to the park's northern boundary will tend to increase the economic impact of Quetico on the surrounding local Atikokan area.

New development may include staff accommodation and administrative facilities, signs, tertiary roads, overnight camping facilities, and facilities for NHE, or for research and management. Any development will be in accordance with an approved site plan, development plan and Class EA-PPCR requirements.

7.0 RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP POLICIES

This section presents the detailed site objectives and management actions for Quetico Provincial Park. Implementation of the actions is subject to a number of conditions, including:

a) applicable legislation and provincial policy;
b) Class EA-PPCR; and,
c) the availability of financial and human resources.

Resource stewardship initiatives may be accomplished through partnerships and sponsorships.

An adaptive management approach will be applied to resource management activities within Quetico Provincial Park. Adaptive management allows for the modification of management strategies in response to monitoring and analysis of the results of past actions and experiences. Adaptive management is a systematic, practical approach to improving resource stewardship.

7.1 Aboriginal Uses of Natural Resources

Quetico Provincial Park is located within the boundaries of lands covered by Treaty #3. All members of Treaty #3, including Couchiching, Lac Des Milles Lac, Lac La Croix, Naicatchewenin, Rainy River, Nicickousemenecaning, Seine River and Stanjikoming First Nations have an established claim to treaty rights by commitments made under that treaty and by virtue of their proximity to Quetico Provincial Park.

Quetico Provincial Park is located in proximity to three Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) asserted harvesting territories. The closest Community Councils that may have an interest include Northwest (Dryden), Kenora, and Sunset Country (Fort Frances).

Quetico Provincial Park overlaps traditional lands and waters of these Aboriginal communities. Aboriginal communities use the area for hunting, trapping, fishing, wild rice harvesting and other gathering and travel and may continue to do so in accordance with section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982.*

The LLCFN is assured power boat and aircraft access to Aboriginal resources for spiritual and cultural purposes. Cultural access is at the discretion of the Chief and Council, under advisement from Lac La Croix Elders, and notice to the office of the Superintendent. Discussion will address any difficulties created by such access.

7.2 Land Management

Land management in Quetico Provincial Park will strive to protect the natural landscape from human influence or disruption by permitting the forces of nature to function freely, only taking action where necessary to preserve the ecological integrity of the park and the wilderness integrity of its features.

The management of the park's land base will be directed towards maintaining the natural landscape. MNR will not dispose of protected area land to individuals or corporations for private use.

If any lands within, nearby or adjacent to the park become available for acquisition; they will be evaluated for purchase with regard to their contribution to park objectives, willing seller/willing buyer and other factors including available funding.

Solid waste will be disposed of outside the park at approved locations.

The Hydro One corridor that runs east west across the northern boundary through the Dawson Trail campground (in A1) will continue to be administered through a land use permit (LUP).

7.2.1 Industrial / Commercial Uses

The following uses are not permitted within the Quetico Provincial Park boundary:
- Commercial forestry.
- Prospecting, staking mining claims, advanced exploration, working mines.
- Extraction of sand, gravel, topsoil or peat.
- Commercial electricity generation.
- Other industrial uses.

7.3 Commercial Tourism Services

Ontario Parks will continue to support the existing tourism-based economic activity which benefits the LLCFN and the Town of Atikokan. The provision of guiding and outfitting services from bases outside Quetico Provincial Park will be encouraged, consistent with the park goal and objectives.

The establishment and use of commercial outpost camps within the park is prohibited.

7.4 Adjacent Land Management

Lands designated as General Use Area[4] (G2627, G2628, G2629, G2562, G2568, G2564) surround Quetico Provincial Park. A full range of resource and recreational uses, governed by existing legislation, strategic land use direction and provincial policy, can occur in these general use areas. The policies in this plan do not affect these areas (Figure 3).

Surrounding land uses include commercial trapping, commercial bait harvesting, commercial forest operations, commercial tourism, mineral exploration, and hydro-electric power generation. In the area adjacent to the eastern boundary of the park, mining claims continue to be staked and mineral exploration and development is ongoing. Exploration is focusing on gold deposits as well as volcanogenic massive sulphide deposits of copper and zinc. The revised terms of reference for an individual environmental assessment for the Hammond Reef Gold project were released in January 2012. This project is located on Marmion Lake 30 kilometres north of Atikokan. Ontario Power Generation's Atikokan Generating Station is located approximately 20 km to the north of the park near the Town of Atikokan. It has one coal-fuelled generating unit that produces up to 211 megawatts (MW) and is slated to convert to wood fibre biomass (pellet fuel).

A small part of Quetico Provincial Park in the Batchewaung Lake area abuts the municipal boundaries of the Township of Atikokan. The Official Plan for the Township identifies the watershed of Quetico Provincial Park as an area of resource management and land use activities where the protection of park values should be considered. The values of Quetico Provincial Park within the Township of Atikokan include critical landform vegetation types, wilderness zone (mechanized travel not permitted in this area), Trans Canada trail (non-mechanized travel only) and an entry point to the park (Batchewaung Lake via Nym Lake). Development proposals will be discussed with MNR staff to determine impacts on the park and possible mitigation/minimization methods.

The development of 4 hydroelectric projects on the Namakan River was initiated several years ago by The Chant Group in conjunction with Ojibway Power and Energy Group (OPEG). The project design was subject to a proponent-led EA process and MNR/OP was part of the agency review. Concerns with the proposal, which included upstream impacts to Quetico Park water levels and the environmental assessment process itself, were identified and the EA was suspended in the fall of 2011. In 2012, OPEG with Gemini Power Corp. re-initiated the EA process for one of the original hydroelectric projects at High Falls with a new design intended to prevent impacts to Quetico Park water levels. MNR/OP will participate in the agency review of the EA process for any new proposal.

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[4] *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* identifies five Land Use Designations including: provincial park, conservation reserve, forest reserve, general use area, and wilderness area. A full range of resource and recreational uses can occur in General Use Areas. Management of General Use Areas occurs in the context of maintaining ecological sustainability. Planning in General Use Areas occurs mainly through the forest management planning process. Planning in the General Use Areas also considers the implications of management actions on adjacent land use designations. http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca/

When Ontario Parks staff review development proposals on adjacent land, impacts of the proposal on ecological integrity, water quality, the experience of remoteness, noise levels, viewscapes, travel routes and wilderness integrity will be considered.

Quetico Provincial Park forms part of the Rainy Lake watershed and lies north of the international boundary waters between Canada and the U.S. (Figure 1). The Canadian waters were designated by the Canadian and Ontario governments as part of the Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway, a Canadian Heritage River, in 1996. The southern boundary of the park is contiguous with the BWCAW within the Superior National Forest, while Voyageurs National Park abuts the international boundary to the west of Quetico. This 1,000,000 hectare suite of protected areas surrounds the historical travel corridor along the boundary waters between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods, and has many historical, natural heritage, and recreational interpretive themes in common with Quetico.

7.5 Vegetation Management

Management of vegetation within the park will be directed towards the maintenance of an evolving natural succession of communities, and natural disturbances (fire, blowdown).

Trees may be removed to enable resource management or facility development specifically authorized by this plan, an approved secondary plan, site plan, or development plan.

Any development that requires the removal of vegetation will be supported by a vegetation inventory in accordance with approved site plans and available resources.

Interior campers are to use standing or fallen deadwood for campfires.

The removal of hazard trees will be permitted in all zones where safety is a concern (e.g., portages, campsites, campgrounds). Areas experiencing adverse use impacts will be rehabilitated whenever possible using plant species native to the park.

Brushing along roads, hiking/skiing trails and portages will be permitted, as necessary, to improve sight lines and/or traffic flow.

Non-native plant species (plant species not native to Ontario or Quetico Provincial Park) will not be deliberately introduced to the park. If non-native plant species threaten natural heritage values or recreation values, a program for their eradication and/or control will be developed and considered. If biologically feasible and acceptable, extirpated native species may be re-established.

The occurrence of forest insects and diseases is recognized as an integral component of the park's ecology. Infestations of forest insects and diseases will be monitored and assessed dependant on available resources. Non-native species may be controlled in all zones. If control measures are undertaken, they will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease, in order to have minimal effects on the balance of the park environment. Biological controls will be considered if appropriate.

Herbicide applications for vegetation management will be subject to written authorization of the park superintendent as per O. Reg 347/07 Section 2(2) and 2(2)(a). Mechanized or hand tending of the Hydro One corridor that crosses the park through the French Lake access zone and W1 zone will be encouraged.

7.6 Forest Fire Management

Forest fire management within Quetico Provincial Park is directed through the Quetico Forest Fire Management Plan (2009) which is consistent with The Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario (2004) and the Fire Management Planning Guideline for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (2011). Quetico Provincial Park is one of 10 parks located in the Parks Fire Management Zone. MNR is responsible for fire response in the park.

The first Quetico Provincial Park Fire Management Plan was approved in 1997. Quetico was divided into two distinct fire zones; the Measured Compartment and the Prescribed Natural Fire Compartment (PNF). The Prescribed Natural Fire Compartment comprised approximately 63% of Quetico's land base. Fires in the Prescribed Natural Fire Compartment were candidates for a monitored or modified response based upon pre-identified criteria and the approved fire assessment report (FAR). If these criteria were not met, a full response was initiated.

In 2005, the scope of the fire plan was expanded to allow human-caused fires to be managed as prescribed fire, provided they occurred in areas pre-identified for renewal (e.g., insect infested stands, blowdown, decadent stands). As a result of this inclusion, the PNF Zone became the Prescribed Fire Compartment.

With the Quetico Provincial Park Fire Management Plan (1997) already in place, fire response remained largely unchanged with the implementation of the current Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario (2004). Other than minor changes in terminology, to provide consistency with this strategy, fire response within Quetico boundaries remained the same.

The current fire management plan divides the park into four fire compartments: two managed fire compartments (1 and 2) and two prescribed fire compartments (3 and 4). Compartment 1 includes the northern boundary of the park where a higher level of protection is required to mitigate impacts to values in and adjacent to the Quetico boundary. Compartment 2 comprises approximately 63% of the Quetico Provincial Park land base. This compartment is located south of Compartment 1 and extends south to the international border, west to the community of Lac La Croix and southeast to the Thunder Bay District boundary. Compartment 2 will generally receive a monitored response based on an approved FAR. The two prescribed fire compartments identify where prescribed fire may meet specific ecosystem renewal and hazard reduction objectives necessary to maintain and improve the ecological integrity within Quetico. Compartment 3 is located in the north-central part of Compartment 2 and consists of 9,223ha. The objective for this compartment is to address concerns regarding jack pine budworm damage in the central portion of the park with the goal of jack pine regeneration within this area. Compartment 4 consists of two areas in the south-western part of Compartment 2 and consists of 13,951ha. The objective for this compartment is to maintain old growth red and white pine communities within these areas while promoting new regeneration of these species.

Fires originating in Minnesota that have the potential to cross the international border into Quetico Provincial Park will be assessed in consultation with Quetico Provincial Park managers, Fort Frances Fire Management Headquarters and representatives from the US Forest Service. Fires will be managed in accordance with the current Quetico Provincial Park Forest Fire Management Plan using appropriate fire response and/or fire use criteria and based on an approved FAR which will include the predicted fire behaviour, the potential impact of the fire on persons, property and values and the estimated cost of the response. The Quetico Provincial Park Fire Operations Plan provides communication linkages and standard operating procedures that are followed between the agencies involved.

Fires originating in Quetico Provincial Park that have the potential of crossing into the BWCAW are subject to the same process as described above. The BWCAW will not accept human-caused forest fires therefore these fires need to be managed accordingly to reflect this policy direction. Fires entering Quetico from BWCAW into prescribed fire compartment must meet the prescriptions assigned to these compartments to be accepted.

Fuel caches are not permitted in the park, with the exception of a cache at Prairie Portage entry station.

7.7 Water Management

Approximately 21% (101,057 ha) of the total park area is comprised of water, with 2,943 lakes; 678 lakes are larger than 10 ha, while 2,265 lakes are smaller than 10 ha. A survey of 298 Quetico lakes indicated 36% (106 lakes) have cold water characteristics, and 64% (191 lakes) have warmwater characteristics (Tyhuis 2000).

Ultimately, all of Quetico's waters drain to the west, through the Rainy Lake basin, the Lake of the Woods basin, the Lake Winnipeg basin, and finally into the Hudson Bay basin (Arctic watershed). It is important to note that several of Quetico's secondary and tertiary watersheds do not all lie completely within its boundaries. As a result, activities and developments occurring outside the park, but within these watersheds, can have a direct impact on Quetico's water quality.

Through the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas Policy Report G2624: Hinterland, the Quetico watershed is identified as an area of concern. Resource management and land use activities in the watershed will be carried out in consideration of the protection of values within the park.

Water quality along the boundary waters, requires continued co-operation with U.S. government agencies to ensure that Quetico's values are not impaired.

Water quality data is being collected through the broad scale monitoring associated with Fisheries Management Zone 5.

There are two dams maintained in Quetico located on Pickerel Lake and Sucker Lake. The Pickerel Lake dam passively maintains water levels on this and adjacent lakes, and is unlikely to create substantial fisheries impacts. The Sucker Lake dam is used to maintain water levels south of the U.S. border and water levels are controlled through the International Joint Commission (IJC). Ontario Parks is not involved in the management of the Sucker Lake dam however, adjacent to the dam is a small hydroelectric generator that provides electricity to the entry station at Prairie Portage. This run-of-the-river hydroelectric generator is maintained by Ontario Parks.

Water levels within Quetico will not be controlled by dams located in the park. Existing historic logging dams will be removed or allowed to deteriorate, such as the log dam on Tanner Lake.

Quetico Provincial Park will continue to work with the Northwest Region MNR to monitor the condition of the Pickerel Lake dam and to undertake remedial actions (such as repair or stoplog replacement) to prevent dam failure and to maintain the present water levels.

Subject to available resources should extensive repair or replacement of the existing structure be required, the creation of a spillway or weir type dam will be considered.

Educational initiatives will be developed to demonstrate the sources and dangers of nutrient input. These programs will stress the need to bury grey water and human waste in pits far from waterbodies.

Public awareness programs will be developed to share information concerning the possible sources, extent, and consequences of external pollution.

Ontario Parks' staff will provide input on the review of proposals for projects occurring in the park vicinity that could affect water quality or the hydrological regime in the park (e.g., hydroelectric, mining, and forest management).

The potable water system for the Dawson Trail campground was replaced in 2003.

Drinking water quality will be monitored on a regular basis in the Dawson Trial campground in accordance with current Ontario Safe Drinking Water Regulations, and the Ontario Beach Management Protocol.

7.8 Fisheries Management

The Quetico Provincial Park Fisheries Stewardship Plan was approved in 2006. As a wilderness park, the primary objective of the Fisheries Stewardship Plan is to maintain the biological integrity of the park's aquatic ecosystems. This will enhance the wilderness experience of park users, and provide a protected wilderness ecosystem that can enhance research and fisheries assessment knowledge. The plan provides management direction for the protection of the ecological integrity of aquatic ecosystems in Quetico Provincial Park, and in turn the high quality fishing experiences associated with them.

Quetico Provincial Park became part of the Fisheries Management Zone 5 (FMZ 5) in 2007. A Fisheries Management Plan for FMZ5 is in the final stages of development and is expected to be approved by late 2013 or early 2014 and will replace the park's Fisheries Stewardship Plan. Currently, angling regulations in the park are the same as the rest of the zone with two exceptions, that only artificial baits and barbless hooks may be used. Analysis of 2010 Broadscale Monitoring data for Quetico PP concludes that the principle ecological integrity is being met at the park scale under current zone management regulations. Quetico Park managers have reviewed the proposed management actions and concluded that they will continue to meet or enhance Ecological Integrity. Because of this, general FMZ 5 angling regulations will continue to be applied to the park except for the two previously mentioned exceptions. Fisheries assessment data will be continued to be analyzed separately for the park in the future to determined whether it continues to meet the principles of Ecological Integrity.

Recreational fishing is permitted in the park subject to the Ontario Fishing Regulations. FMZ 5 regulation exceptions require the use of artificial lures and barbless hooks in Quetico Provincial Park.

No commercial fishing licences exist, including bait harvest, nor have any been issued since 1968. No new operations are permitted.

Stocking of native species for the purpose of reintroducing native species is permitted subject to the Class EA-PPCR. Stocking for the purpose of sport fishing is not permitted. Spawn collection for the purpose of research may be authorized by Ontario Parks research permit. Both activities are permitted in wilderness zones.

Anglers and other park visitors will be encouraged to prevent the introduction of invasive species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian milfoil by cleaning and drying their canoes, boats aircraft pontoons and other equipment before entering park waters and between portages.

The use of alternative, non-lead tackle will be encouraged and educational initiatives will be developed to promote the merits of lead-free tackle.

Rehabilitation of fisheries habitat is permitted subject to the Class EA-PPCR.

7.9 Wildlife Management

Quetico Provincial Park is located within Wildlife Management Unit 11C. Hunting for game mammals, game birds and migratory game birds is prohibited by the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*.

There are presently 18 registered traplines wholly or partially within Quetico and of these, 13 are operated by members of the LLCFN. These lines are located in the park's northwestern, northern and northeastern sectors. Non-native trappers hold four traplines in Quetico as a result of trapline transfers and as a result of an adjustment in the park's northern boundary in 1977. Provincial park policy directs that existing licences for those traplines in Quetico, not held by Status Indians exercising treaty rights, will not continue for the lifetime of the head trapper because an Aboriginal interest has been identified. Steps are underway to transfer these traplines to licenced members of Lac La Croix. Trapping is limited to the harvest of beaver and marten.

A number of traplines in the park are served by trapping cabins situated discretely away from shorelines and away from major canoe routes.

The relocation of existing development, including trapline cabins and trails etc. may be permitted but will be subject to an assessment of ecological impacts and management planning.

Trappers are permitted to continue to access their traplines (where trapping is allowed and licenced), park in areas designated by the park superintendent, including using mechanized travel by aircraft, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or motorized snow vehicle (e.g., snowmobile) within the park:

- Aircraft: The use of aircraft will be permitted between September 15 and May 1 with the approval of the park superintendent.
- Motorized snow vehicles and ATVs: The use of motorized snow vehicles and ATVs will only be permitted during the trapping season in areas designated by the park superintendent.
- Outboard motors: The use of outboard motors with an engine rating not exceeding 10 h.p., for the purpose of trapping activities is permitted during the trapping season.

The management of Aboriginal trapping will be defined through negotiation of a trapping agreement with the LLCFN. This agreement will address administration, species limitation, quotas, cabin construction, and trapping on Hunter Island. A joint trapping management body, with representation that is sanctioned by both the LLCFN and by Ontario Parks MNR, will be established to implement the trapping agreement and to manage day-to-day trapping matters on band member trap lines.

Wildlife habitat in Quetico will be managed through the use of fire for forest renewal. Non-native animal species will not be deliberately introduced to the park. If any non-native animal species threaten park values, a program for their eradication may be developed subject to the Class EA-PPCR. Extirpated native species may be reintroduced, and existing populations replenished subject to the Class EA-PPCR if biologically feasible, acceptable, and desirable in terms of perpetuating park values.

Opportunities for wildlife viewing will be encouraged in the park.

Mortally-wounded animals or individual animals may be controlled when essential to protect health and safety of park visitors or park facilities. Nuisance animals may be trapped and removed or dispatched under the supervision of, or directly by, MNR staff.

7.9.1 Species at Risk

Species at risk and their habitat will be protected consistent with the ESA and regulations and Ontario Parks policy.

Assessment and monitoring of the park's species at risk (e.g., lake sturgeon) and their habitat use may be undertaken to support wildlife management projects.

7.10 Cultural Heritage Management

The main cultural heritage values identified in Quetico Provincial Park include pictographs, archaeological encampment sites, abandoned logging camps and old ranger cabins.

The management of cultural heritage resources in Quetico Provincial Park will be directed towards protection, heritage appreciation and research. Cultural heritage resources that may be impacted by any park projects or activities will be identified and managed (i.e., protected, maintained, used and disposed of) in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (*Ontario Heritage Act*, Part III.1). Staff will also consult MNR's Technical Guideline for Cultural Heritage Resources. In the event of a discovery of additional archaeological sites, Ontario Parks will work with the appropriate authorities to identify and assess the significance of the site.

Ontario Parks will involve nearby Aboriginal communities on matters pertaining to Aboriginal history, any sites found within the park associated with Aboriginal culture, interpretation of Aboriginal history, and appropriate use of cultural artefacts. The precise location of any found Aboriginal cultural sites, including burial sites, will not be disclosed to the public.

The removal of artefacts or destruction of historical features is illegal and is prohibited under the PPCRA.

7.10.1 Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is a cooperative program developed and run by the park administrations of territorial, provincial and the federal governments to give national recognition to the important rivers of Canada. The primary objective of the program is to ensure that those rivers which are outstanding examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, as well as offering outstanding recreational opportunities, are protected.

The international waterway portions of Quetico, Pigeon River and LaVerendrye Provincial Parks were nominated as the Boundary Waters-Voyageurs Waterway under the CHRS. The nomination as a Canadian Heritage River was based upon its outstanding representation of natural, cultural and recreational values. With the completion of a management plan entitled "Managing the Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway as a

Canadian Heritage River", the waterway was officially designated by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board of Directors in September, 1996.
A requirement of the CHRS is to prepare a monitoring report every 10 years for each designated heritage river. This report, entitled Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway, Ontario A Decade in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System 1996 – 2006, was completed in 2006 and includes a summary of the changes to the waterway's natural and cultural heritage, recreational values; a brief description of the publications, reports and plans associated with the waterway; and an evaluation of the 1996 management plan and its implementation.

The Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway has maintained the qualities and values for which it was originally nominated since its designation in 1996.

A proposal to amend the existing designated route to recognize the early fur trade route from Fort William through Quetico will be submitted to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in 2013.

8.0 PARK OPERATIONS POLICIES

Operations policies deal with topics such as the NHE program, recreation management, and the provision of recreation services, business planning and research.

8.1 Recreation Management

Recreational activities permitted within Quetico will include primitive/non-machanized travel (e.g., canoeing, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing), as well as those activities (e.g., camping, fishing, photography, and viewing) that are associated and compatible with non-mechanized travel. The types of non-mechanized travel provided for will only be those that are consistent with the historical context of the park. For example, although horseback riding and sailing may be considered as non-mechanized forms of travel, facilities for these activities will not be provided for within Quetico. In addition, the use of Quetico in the teaching or practicing of consumptive or destructive wilderness survival techniques will not be permitted. Similarly, those activities which may permanently deface the park landscape (e.g., use of pitons for rock climbing) will be prohibited.

Winter activities in Quetico include ice fishing as well as self-directed back country skiing, snowshoeing, and winter camping in the interior of the park. Commercial dog sledding will not be permitted anywhere in the park. Non-commercial dog teams of one to two dogs will be permitted. Teams of more than 3 dogs may be permitted in the park subject to authorization by the park superintendent. Proof of vaccination for parvovirus, rabies and distemper will be required.

Groomed classic trails are available for day-use skiing in the environs of the Dawson Trail campground in the French Lake access zone and the abutting W3 zone. There is a canvas prospector tent on a platform equipped with a woodstove at the old Camp 111 near Baptism Creek. An outdoor privy is also located near the tent at Baptism Creek. The tent is intended for warm-up during day-use.

Recreational activities that are deemed to be incompatible with the park goal or with specific zones are prohibited or restricted. Examples include adventure races, rock climbing and other high risk activities as described in park policy. Prevention and control of such activities will be achieved through education of park visitors regarding appropriate uses in the park in general and within specific zones, and through enforcement.

In keeping with Quetico's wilderness ideal, the recreational use of all mechanical forms of transportation is prohibited as per regulation[5]. See section 8.2 for more detail. This ban includes power boats, airplanes, motorized snow vehicles and ATVs. This also includes prohibition of the use of a "portage cart" which is defined as a wheeled apparatus used to facilitate transport of a canoe, kayak or power boats.

Existing regulations prohibit the use of other motorized equipment such as chain saws, power augers and generators in the interior of Quetico Provincial Park.

8.1.1 Dawson Trail Campground

The Dawson Trail Campground was established in 1957 on French Lake, and provides a "window on the wilderness" to those not able or inclined to venture into the interior. Facilities are provided in the Chippewa and Ojibwa campgrounds for day-use, car-camping and interior access (Figure 4A). Campground amenities include: 107 campsites, 49 of which have electricity and 2 which are barrier-free, as well as 2 yurts, comfort stations and day-use areas. Additional campground amenities include vault privies, potable water, trailer service facilities and a comfort station with shower and laundry facilities. Interior access facilities include a parking area and a canoe-launching site near the Ojibwa campground.

All campgrounds and campsites will be monitored to ensure their continued viability. This will include necessary improvements to maintain the campgrounds according to Ontario Parks' operating standards as funding becomes available.

The Dawson Trail Campground area will be managed in keeping with the character of Quetico, which may include non-mechanized recreation such as natural heritage education, hiking, cross-country skiing, skijoring (skiing while pulled by a dog), mountain biking (in designated areas), as well as providing staging for day trips and short overnight trips into the interior.

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[5] as per ONTARIO REGULATION 346/07 MECHANIZED TRAVEL IN WILDERNESS PARKS

The number of campsites within the Dawson Trail campground may be increased by a maximum of 20 sites (to a maximum of 127 sites) as need/demand warrants; some of these new campsites may be created for alternative roofed accommodation[6], walk-in camp sites, canvas tents, or yurts. A limited number of these new sites may be created to accommodate small and medium sized RVs (under 32 feet) and the associated spur/back-in/pull-through areas, as demand warrants. A limited number of sites may have electrical hook-ups added up to a maximum 40% of new sites, as need/demand warrants. A group campsite may be developed as demand warrants.

Roofed accommodation may be developed at the location of the old staff residence or setback an appropriate distance from the shore of French Lake (premium, stand or rustic) between the two campgrounds in A1 to preserve and protect aquatic and riparian habitats from these developments.

8.1.2 Visitor Regulation Program (Quota System)

The Visitor Regulation Program (VRP) for Quetico was created in 1977 with the approval of the original Quetico Provincial Park Master Plan. The VRP is based on the wilderness management philosophy of the park and the definition of wilderness. The VRP addresses existing uses, users, numbers, impacts; it highlights park regulations specific to Quetico; and establishes cycles for the collection of travel and visitor information data.

Various components of the VRP have been implemented to minimize the deterioration of both the park's resources and the quality of the visitor's experience. This has included the implementation of a quota system based on entry points and use areas, a reservation service to accommodate the quotas, regulations specific to the control of visitor impacts on park values, and a user education/orientation program.

The VRP quotas are based upon a defined recreational carrying capacity for the park. This capacity was derived from analysis of the recreational capabilities of both the natural resource base, the social setting for the wilderness experience and management practices to nurture wilderness settings. The capacity is presently defined as an entry quota of 68 parties (of up to 9 persons per party) per day, for a maximum of 69,165 persons annually over a 113 day operating season. The carrying capacity and quota may be revised and

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[6] Ontario Parks may consider four types of roofed accommodation: 1. premium cabin which is fully serviced with 3 BRs; 2. standard cabin with electricity but no water and 3 BRs; 3. rustic cabin with electricity but no water and 4. remote cabin with no electricity or water located in back country.

adjusted to reflect changes in use patterns and to support the maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity.
Visitors may continue to travel anywhere in the park that is not temporarily closed to travel, for reasons of safety, research and preservation.

Interior campsite occupancy is limited by regulation to one party per site. Maximum party size for interior use is limited by regulation to nine people.

Large groups travelling together are encouraged to limit themselves to a maximum of two parties, and to camp separately to minimize impacts on park resources and the experience of other wilderness visitors.

The use of non-burnable food and beverage containers (cans and glass bottles) in the interior is prohibited by regulation. All refuse which is not burned, must be carried out of the interior by the park visitor.

There is no limit to the maximum length of stay in the park for individual parties.[7] Limitations on length of stay may be imposed at campsites situated within congested sectors of the park, particularly in the vicinity of access zones and busy travel corridors.

Campsites will be monitored for site deterioration. Campsites may be closed for site restoration.

In areas of critical firewood shortage, or during periods of extreme fire hazard, visitors are required to carry and use portable stoves for cooking.

Structures such as fish wells, benches and tables are not permitted, and are dismantled by park staff when discovered.

8.1.3 Portages

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[7] Maximum number of nights

16. (1) No person shall camp on an interior camp-site or in an interior camping zone for more than the maximum number of nights specified on the provincial park permit. O. Reg. 347/07, s. 16 (1).

(2) No person shall camp on a campground camp-site or unserviced camp-site for more than 23 consecutive nights or on an interior camp-site for more than 16 consecutive nights unless,

(a) the camp-site is available;

(b) the superintendent authorizes its continued use on the grounds that no adverse effect to the natural environment will occur as a result; and

(c) a new provincial park permit is obtained. O. Reg. 347/07, s. 16 (2).

Portages will consist of primitive pathways developed to provide stable and safe passage between segments of canoeable waterways. As a general principle, neither docks nor signs will be permitted at portage landings; however, in situations involving extreme hazard (i.e., a waterfall), signs may be used. Otherwise, appropriate information on the location of and safe approach to portages will be provided in the park map and in natural heritage education literature.

The condition of portages will be continually monitored as part of the interior maintenance program. Acceptable portage maintenance will include brushing, the construction of log causeways/boardwalks and selective surface treatment. Mechanical portage facilities will not be developed, and the use of mechanical devices introduced by users (e.g., portage cart/wheels) is prohibited by regulation.

8.1.4 Trails

Quetico, although not known for its hiking opportunities, has a small network of good day-hiking and interpretive trails located in the French Lake Access Zone and W3 zone (Figure 6). At the Dawson Trail Campground, there are several short interpretive trails (1.2 to 2.2 km in length) that are used by car-campers and day-users. Interpretive signs are located at points of interest, and guided interpretive walks are conducted by NHE staff. A 1 km barrier-free boardwalk runs alongside the Pickerel River from the Heritage and Information Pavilion to the playground beach. In addition, a 4.4 km hiking trail runs south and west from the Ojibwa campground to The Pines Beach on Pickerel Lake, and a 4.2 km hiking trail runs parallel to the French River on the former Camp 111 road.

Quetico Provincial Park has developed a Nordic ski trail system on Dawson Trail campground roads, hiking trails, and new ski trails. There are almost 30 km of groomed ski trails within the French Lake access zone and environs, Including a 24 km loop to Sawmill Lake (Figure 4A).

New long distance trail development (maximum tread width 1.5 meters) is permitted within the northeast corner of the park on elevated terrain where it does not conflict with canoe routes. This will provide for the provision ot long distance hiking trails where it does not conflict with canoe routes. This supports the provision of compatible outdoor recreation opportunities. Trail development will be undertaken as per existing park policy, a trail management plan and Class EA-PPCR review.

Trail development and maintenance will include such procedures as brushing and the construction of log causeways / boardwalks. Small scale bridge construction is permitted. A new pedestrian bridge may be installed over Baptism Creek. Development and management of trail-related campsites will be guided by the same principles as those governing the management of waterway-related campsites (Section 8.1.6).

A water-based section of the Trans Canada Trail runs through Quetico Provincial Park from Cache Bay through the Falls Chain, Kawnipi, Mackenzie and Cache lakes and through Baptism Creek and Lake to French and Pickerel lakes and out of the park through the Racers portages.

8.1.5 Canoe Routes

The reputation of Quetico Provincial Park is based upon its outstanding wilderness canoeing opportunities, and Quetico is considered primarily to be the domain of the canoeist. The park's erratic drainage system provides a myriad of interconnecting lakes and streams from which the canoeist can choose a route suitable to individual preferences and abilities.

Many factors contribute to the quality of the canoeing available within the park. The extensive network of lakes and rivers increases the variety of the wilderness travel experience. The canoeist can choose a short and relatively easy trip or, alternatively, a lengthy one requiring skillful canoe-handling and rigorous portaging.

Canoeing activity within Quetico fans out into the interior from the entry stations. Canoe routes are most heavily travelled in the southern sector of the park, which is accessed by the busiest entry stations. In the north, use is greatest in the sector of the park accessible from the French Lake entry station.

The freedom to travel and camp anywhere is one of the primary attractions of Quetico. Unrestricted travel and camping is implicit in a wilderness experience.

Park managers retain the ability to temporarily close areas for reasons of public safety, research and preservation.

8.1.6 Interior Camping

Interior campsites in Quetico have minimal development. There are more than 2,000 interior campsites within the park, and all are unmarked (by signs), have no privies or fire grates, and are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Sites are identified by established fire rings, and campers are encouraged to use sites with these primitive stone fire-places rather than to camp in a previously undisturbed area. Construction of structures such as benches and tables is not permitted. Many campsites have been used by Aboriginal peoples for thousands of years, and signs of this may occasionally be seen. Their presence (i.e., cultural artefacts) should be respected and left as they were found.

Criteria for campsite location will avoid development adjacent to portages, fragile features or features of special interest as identified in natural heritage education literature, sites within hearing or sight of other campsites or incidental use sites. In order to satisfy this requirement, some existing campsites may be closed.

Campsites may be temporarily or permanently closed for site stabilization or rehabilitation.

Park visitors will be educated in acceptable methods of human waste and greywater disposal. Box privies may be provided on high use sites.

Park literature and other information provided to back country users will promote wilderness etiquette and a "leave no trace" philosophy in order to minimize human impacts on the park environment. The importance of adequate skill levels, safety precautions, and proper outfitting as part of a safe and enjoyable wilderness experience will also be communicated.

8.2 Mechanized Travel

Ontario Parks' staff may use power boats, motorized snow vehicles, aircraft, motor vehicles, and ATVs in the park to the extent necessary for research, efficient park management and operations. Resource harvesters may use power boats, motorized snow vehicles, aircraft, and ATVs as per section 7.9. Other public agencies may use any craft or vehicle for emergency search and rescue operations within the park, provided the park superintendent is notified at the earliest possible opportunity.

8.2.1 Power Boats

Power boats are permitted to access traplines by authorized trappers and their helpers. The Canada - U.S. border intersects Crooked, Basswood, Sucker, Birch, Knife, Ottertrack and Saganaga lakes; private use of power boats is permitted on the American side, and prohibited on the Canadian side, of the larger lakes. An amendment to Ontario Regulation 346/07 Mechanized Travel in Wilderness Parks is required for this purpose.

Motorized Guiding

The LLCFN has a long-standing dependency on the fisheries resources of the Quetico area.

The 1995 Agreement of Co-existence identifies a group of 20 lakes within Quetico Provincial Park, 10 of which may be used in a given year, for members of the LLCGA to use motors no more than 10 hp to access for guided services to anglers. One of these 10 designated lakes may also be designated as fly-in. This motorized guiding activity is anticipated to be phased out by January 1, 2016. Appendix B shows the lakes utilized for motorized guiding and the years they have been used. Refer to Section 8.1 for more detail.

Argo Lake was removed from the list in 2002 when Middle Roland Lake was added. Refer to Appendix B for this list.

8.2.2 Motorized Snow Vehicles

Recreational motorized snow vehicle use is not permitted in Quetico Provincial Park.

Motorized snow vehicles are permitted to access traplines by authorized trappers and their helpers.

8.2.3 Aircraft

Commercial aircraft landings authorized by the park superintendent are permitted at Cache Bay (Saganaga Lake) and King Point (Basswood Lake) for Canadian residents and outfitters. This supports the retention of aircraft landings for Canadians to access the southern boundary of Quetico without having to cross into the USA to access the park. Ontario Regulation 346/07 Mechanized Travel in Wilderness Parks Schedule 1 will be amended to remove Beaverhouse Lake and Mack Lake from regulation for commercial aircraft landings.

The 1995 Agreement of Co-existence Implementation Commitee identified a group of 20 lakes within Quetico Provincial Park, one of which may be designated as fly-in, for members of the LLCGA. The lakes include: Beaverhouse, Quetico, Cirrus, Wolsley, Tanner, Minn, McAree, Crooked, Basswood, Iron, Badwater, Poohbah, Roland, Middle Roland, Omemee, Cub, Bearpelt, Bottle, Wicksteed, and Darkwater.

Aircraft also land on waters outside of the park to disembark parties holding valid park entry permits. Lakes outside of the park currently used for this purpose include Lac La Croix, Nym Lake, Clay Lake, and Saganaga Lake (outside of park). No park permit is required to land aircraft on waters outside of the park.

Private or commercial aircraft may land by permit on Batchewaung (2 locations) and Saganagons Lakes for access only to private tenured, properties. An amendment to Ontario Regulation 346/07 Mechanized Travel in Wilderness Parks will take place to authorize these landings.

In flying to access points, outfitters will be encouraged to circumnavigate the park in order to avoid negative impacts on wilderness users.

Park managers will discourage overflights including adoption of an overflight protocol of 2000' above ground level (AGL), as per Transport Canada's Aeronautical Information Manual TP 14371E (Transport Canada 2012), and will investigate the opportunity to create a regulated flight ceiling over the park.

8.2.4 All Terrain Vehicles

Recreational ATV use is not permitted in Quetico Provincial Park. ATV use for the purpose of accessing traplines by authorized trappers and their helpers is permitted.

8.3 Social and Economic Links

Within the context of the broader landscape, it is important to consider the social and economic relationships that Quetico Provincial Park has with the surrounding area. Social and economic links include the local communities of Ignace, Atikokan and Thunder Bay whose residents and businesses either visit the park and/or utilize the park as an attraction for outdoor recreation activities and/or for business opportunities.

Ontario Parks may provide support, in the form of information to park visitors and participation by staff in local and regional initiatives, to assist in the co-ordination of recreation opportunities that are compatible with park values. Ontario Parks will seek to maintain a supportive working relationship/dialogue with individuals, groups and agencies.

8.4 Access to the park

Access zones are described in section 6.4. These are the entry points of the park to which the MNR will direct and encourage visitors.

Resource access roads adjacent to the park are developed and maintained for resource extraction purposes, such as commercial forestry, and are usually abandoned once the intended use is completed in an area. In some instances, roads are re-opened to continue work, or to access other locations. Plans for the development, use and abandonment of all resource access roads on Crown land are documented for public review in the form of use management strategies in approved forest management plans (FMPs). Since road use strategies are defined on a case by case basis, Ontario Parks' staff will participate in the FMP process to ensure that park values are considered.

8.4.1 Utility Corridors

Hydro One Networks Inc. (formerly part of Ontario Hydro) holds a land use permit (LUP) for the hydro corridor that runs through the northern boundary of the park in the French Lake access zone (A1) and the W1 zone. Manual / mechanical tending, instead of the use of herbicides, will be encouraged in the existing corridor, as per the conditions on the LUP.

New hydro corridor crossings will be minimized where possible and they will be managed to reduce their impact on ecological, recreational and aesthetic values. New crossings will be assessed, and if deemed appropriate must meet criteria of Section 21 of the PPCRA.

8.4.2 Boat Caches

Within the park, there are a number of resource user (trappers) boat caches. The LLCGA also has boats cached to support mechanized guiding. The park superintendent maintains an inventory of boat caches located within the park. Private and commercial tourism boat caches are not permitted.

Local resource users (trappers) will be permitted to cache boats in zones, other than nature reserve zones, as approved by the park superintendent.

The LLCGA will be encouraged to rationalise the number of boat caches and cached boats used to support mechanized guiding.

Except under the preceding circumstances, no person will be permitted to cache boats anywhere in the park. Any cached boat not authorized by the policies of this plan will be removed from the park.

8.5 Natural Heritage Education

As outlined in the Strategic Plan for Natural Heritage Education in Ontario Parks (OMNR 1997), the goal of the NHE program is to develop visitor awareness and appreciation of Ontario Parks' natural and cultural heritage, fostering a commitment to its protection for all generations. NHE opportunities will be educational and recreational, formal and informal, and accessible to all people.

The objectives of the NHE program are to provide basic information in all parks; interpretation of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage in provincial parks; and outdoor recreation in representative landscapes in Ontario. There are three levels of NHE service in the provincial park's system: self-use, seasonal activity, and major activity.

NHE within Quetico Provincial Park will be delivered at a major activity level. This level includes the components of information, interpretation and outdoor recreation. Quetico provides a combination of staff-led NHE interpretive and outdoor skills programs, self-use facilities such as nature trails, interpretive signs, displays and exhibits, and a park information program including park tabloids, park leaflets, a park interior map and wilderness guide.

A NHE plan and an annual NHE operating plan will be prepared for the park. Direction will be taken from provincial policy, the Northwest Zone Natural Heritage Education Plan and the park management plan. The Quetico NHE plan will be reviewed and updated as required. The scope and intent of all NHE activities will be carefully defined to ensure their compatibility with park features.

An Ojibwa interpretive programme may be planned, developed and implemented through the LLCFN.

8.5.1 Park Information

The public information program will provide visitors with information about the park, its resources, environment and facilities, the park system and local attractions. This information emphasizes the visitor's role in maintaining the natural environment of the park, appropriate behaviour in the park, safety in the outdoors and dealing with problem wildlife. Park literature will also advise visitors about commercial services and attractions in the local area and other Ontario Parks.

A detailed park interior map and annual wilderness guide will be used to enable visitors to explore and use the park. The wilderness guide and other information provided to back country users will provide information on:

- Trip planning (e.g., maps, seasonal water levels, travel skills required, transportation logistics, local services and attractions);
- Park management messages (e.g., safe travel, fishing regulations, minimum impact camping including can and bottle ban and packing out garbage, human waste disposal, potential for wildlife contact such as black bears, preventing the spread of invasive species, common PPCRA offences);
- Natural and cultural heritage values; and,
- Permitted uses/activities within the park.

8.5.2 Interpretation

The NHE program for Quetico will emphasize two major themes, both containing one or more sub-themes:

- The wilderness concept is of paramount importance. This theme will explore the philosophy of wilderness and thus attempt to foster among users an appreciation and understanding of the dynamics of ecological processes.
- The second major theme is a cultural one. It will delve into the history of Quetico from the earliest times to the present, including the Aboriginal cultures, the fur trade, the Dawson Route and the more recent logging eras.

Within the wilderness zones, users are widely dispersed and on-site facilities incompatible. In response to these limitations, the NHE program will be focused at entry stations and will stress personal communication and high quality publications. Information will be provided to interior users at entry stations prior to their entering the wilderness zone as well as through contact with park rangers encountered while in the interior.

An extensive education effort promoting minimum impact camping will continue as part of the NHE program including an outfitter stewardship program known as Q100 Stewardship project[8]. An organized youth group education package may be developed.

Visitor service facilities complement the Dawson Trail campground. These include the Teaching Place roundhouse, a multi-use activity centre for cultural and NHE programs and the Quetico Provincial Park Heritage / Information Pavilion. The John B. Ridley Research Library was established by The Quetico Foundation. The library provides resources for the study of biology, geology, history, culture, archaeology, and wilderness management. The collection, managed by the park librarian, includes books, articles, pamphlets, maps, slides, photographs, and oral history tapes.

Quetico Provincial Park staff will involve Lac La Croix and area Aboriginal communities to ensure that any potential interpretation of Aboriginal cultural features is accurate and appropriate.

8.5.3 Recreation

Information provided on the park interior map and wilderness guide will acquaint visitors with the natural, cultural and recreational attributes of the park, its dangers (e.g., whitewater) and safety considerations. As opportunities arise, recreation skills programs, such as canoeing and wilderness travel, may be offered at Dawson Trail to help visitors understand and better enjoy the park environment.

8.6 Marketing

Quetico Provincial Park will be promoted in accordance with the Ontario Parks Marketing Plan and established Ontario Parks' policy. Marketing activities will be consistent with the zone and provincial marketing plans.

8.7 Research and Monitoring

In order to maintain Quetico's ecological integrity, the park will be managed as a dynamic ecosystem. Managing as a dynamic system will allow natural process and rates of change to occur, such as allowing forest fire and periodic endemic (native) insect infestations to occur. The goal will be to maintain ecosystem processes and the associated structure and composition of native species and biological communities.

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[8] http://www.quetico100.com/

In the past, Ontario's provincial parks have been managed as both static and dynamic, depending on the issue. Static management treats an ecosystem as if change within that system is undesirable and is something to be resisted. An example of static management in Quetico would be the tall pines project, or fire objectives based on historical fire cycle. Dynamic management allows for the adaptation to changing conditions, such as the effects of climate change on ecological systems, including fire and vulnerable ecosystem components. By using a consistent, dynamic approach, Quetico will be able to naturally adapt to pressures such as climate change, as it has continually done for thousands of years, and will also conform to wilderness class parks objectives "*...where the forces of nature can exist freely...*" (PPCRA). Climate change challenges our notions of what a dynamic ecosystem should look like, meaning that processes such as range expansion of more southern native species into Quetico will be permitted. This does not mean that active management and/or intervention will not be needed. Threats to ecological integrity such as invasive species will still be controlled if necessary and feasible.

In order to understand and manage for ecological integrity, a monitoring plan will be prepared. Through monitoring, the status of natural resources can be determined at a point in time. The state of the resources can then be compared to similar assessments at another point in time to determine what change, if any, has occurred. The state of the resources can also be compared to the objectives that have been established for the resource to determine if those objectives are being met.

Ontario Parks encourages scientific research by qualified individuals who can contribute to the knowledge of natural and cultural history and to environmental management in provincial parks. All research at Quetico Provincial Park will be conducted by, or authorized by, Ontario Parks. Research projects will be administered through the park and require a research permit. Research must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. Approved research and monitoring activities must be consistent with Ontario Parks' Research and Information Strategy (Ontario Parks 1997).

The Interim Research Strategy (2008) will be used to guide research projects in Quetico Provincial Park for the period 2008-2011. The strategy will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure that research needs and priorities are kept current.

Research in Quetico has been occurring as early as the 1940s. The formal research program did not begin until 1997; however, when the Quetico Foundation developed the Summer Student Research Program, hiring university and high school students to collect data under the direction of a research scientist.

In 2005 a park biologist was hired to develop a research program in the park. The two main areas of research include long term monitoring and assessment, which is generally conducted by park staff and other government agencies, and applied research, which is generally conducted by academic institutions.

A number of partnerships have been developed to support Quetico Provincial Park research and monitoring. The Quetico Foundation continues to support the Summer Student Research Program under the direction of the park biologist; in 2006 the Foundation started an internship program for biology students and recent graduates to work with the park biologist. The Heart of the Continent Partnership works on cross-border projects that benefit the region. The Legacy Forest initiative is a partnership involving the forestry industry, Lakehead University and Quetico that focuses on intensive forest management research in the Dog River-Matawan Forest with Quetico as a control area.

Ontario Parks may consider allowing temporary facilities in support of approved research and monitoring activities. Sites altered by research activities must be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible, except where the specific intent of the research activities is disturbance for the purpose of ecological enhancement or restoration.

8.8 Partnerships

In the implementation of the approved park management plan, Ontario Parks may pursue opportunities for partnerships involving other agencies and groups through formal partnership agreements. Partners may represent the local community, and local and provincial interests. Partners will work with Ontario Parks to assist with the implementation of the approved park management plan and follow provincial park policies and regulations.

9.0 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Development policies identify priorities for new development as well as redevelopment of existing facilities. Development is implemented through business and work program planning, based on priority and subject to the availability of funds, and in accordance with approved site and development plans that detail the location, type and extent of development permitted.

All development undertaken by Ontario Parks, or by partners on its behalf, must meet the process requirements of the Class EA-PPCR and be carried out in accordance with approved site and development plans that meet development standards for provincial parks.

Areas proposed for development will require prior assessment for significant cultural heritage features and natural values – such as species at risk - to ensure these values are identified and protected at the site. Replacement and / or upgrading of park facilities will occur as required.

The following developments may be undertaken as funding permits.

9.1 Historical Zone (French Portage)

- Interpretive signs, displays and trails.
- Pedestrian crossing signage on highway 11.

All associated development will complement the zone's historical values and resources.

9.2 Access Zones

The development of additional facilities to support tourism and recreation in the park and structures will require site planning once environmental assessment requirements have been met.

Zone A1 (French Lake)
- The number of campsites within the Dawson Trail campground may be increased by a maximum of 20 sites (to a maximum of 127 sites) as need/demand warrants; some of these new campsites may be created for roofed accommodation (premium, standard or rustic cabins), a group campsite, walk-in camp sites, canvas tents, or yurts.
- The Information Pavilion, warehouse, staff house and gatehouse will be upgraded / replaced as required, subject to available resources.
- Day-use areas: picnic shelter, comfort stations, septic systems and water system replace, repair and/or expand.
- Day-use area break wall and area repair, or replace or landscape.
- Telephone / hydro line removal and burial.
- Staff house radio tower replacement.
- Removal of NHE building

Zone A2 (Cache Bay)
- Entry station facilities (including staff accommodations, office, park store, storage, aircraft landing dock, solar system, water system, septic, public washrooms) will be upgraded / replaced as required subject to available resources.
- Radio tower replacement
- Clean up of debris associated with removal of the portage crew cabins.

Zone A3 (Prairie Portage)
- Entry station facilities (including staff accommodations, office, park store, storage, aircraft landing dock, septic, public washrooms) will be upgraded / replaced as required

subject to available resources.
- Hydroelectric generator, penstock and discharge maintenance and replacement.
- Radio tower replacement

Zone A4 (Beaverhouse)
- Entry station facilities (including staff accommodations, office, storage, park store, aircraft landing dock, solar system, water system, and septic) will be upgraded / replaced as required subject to available resources.
- Radio tower replacement

FormerA5 Zone (Lac La Croix)
- Assessment, signing, demolition and disposal of the former entry station facilities.

9.3 Wilderness Zones

W1 and W2 zones (park interior)

- Monitoring of the condition of the Pickerel Lake dam with NW Region to undertake remedial actions (such as repair or stoplog replacement) to prevent dam failure and to maintain the present water levels. Subject to available resources should extensive repair or replacement of the existing structure be required, the creation of a spillway or weir type dam will be considered.
- Existing portages and back country campsites will be maintained and improved as funding permits. New portages and campsites may be developed by Ontario Parks. Campsite rehabilitation will be carried out where necessary and primitive facilities such as privies may be developed on campsites in high use / travel areas.
- Long distance hiking trails may be developed in the northeast corner of the park to appropriate standards as warranted by demand.
- Renovation of Cabin 16 and the cabin at King Point may occur to provide patrol cabins along the border and to maintain the character of these heritage buildings.
- Radio repeater tower repair / replacement (Kahshahpiwi fire tower and all entry stations)
- McKenzie Lake fire tower removal
- Beaverhouse fire tower removal

W3 Zone (day-use wilderness zone)

- Trails
- A new pedestrian bridge may be installed over Baptism Creek

9.4 Friends of Quetico Park

A co-operating association, "Friends of Quetico Park", is a non-governmental, volunteer, not-for-profit, registered charitable organization governed by a volunteer elected board of directors. The Friends were incorporated in 1984 and have been working with the park since then. Their purpose is to enhance and supplement the educational, recreational, research and resource protection programs and facilities of the park with which it is affiliated thereby increasing the public's understanding and appreciation of the park and the Ontario provincial park system. The membership is drawn from park visitors and individuals from the local area. In addition to its directors and volunteers, an association may also employ paid staff. Friends' activities may include:

- Enhancing and supplementing the educational, recreational, research and resource protection programs and facilities provided in a park,
- Producing and selling educational and informational materials (i.e., trail guides, checklists, maps, newsletters, etc.),
- Encouraging volunteer and community participation in its programs and those of Quetico Provincial Park in accordance with established Ontario Parks' policy.

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

Park development, operations and resource stewardship will be contingent upon the availability of funding and unforeseeable changes in priorities or policy. Implementation of the management plan and operation of the park will meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act, *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*, PPCRA, ESA, and other pertinent legislation.

Further planning and consultation may be required to address implementation priorities and emerging needs. This may involve an amendment to this document and/or evaluation through the Class EA-PPCR. A list of implementation priorities follows.

10.1 Resource Stewardship Priorities

Ontario Parks will undertake the following as resources become available:

- Campground restoration including annual treeplanting.
- Interior campsite inventory, maintenance and restoration.
- Ongoing biological data collection that includes the establishment of Ontario Parks Inventory and Monitoring plots, breeding bird monitoring, fisheries and benthic monitoring (Section 8.6).
- Monitoring plan.
- Wildlife monitoring such as moose.
- Fisheries management direction for Quetico Provincial Park through FMZ 5 (Section 7.8).
- Data collection on park users including back country canoeists and youth groups, day users, anglers, and shoulder season and winter users (Section 8.6).
- Archaeological assessments of sites that may be impacted by use or development

(Section 7.10).
- Park values maps for forest management planning and other resource planning and development proposals (Section 7.5).

10.2 Operations/Administration Priorities

- Replacement and / or upgrading of park facilities as required,
- Preparation of a NHE plan,
- Preparation of a park marketing plan/strategy,
- Annual review of the operating plan, the business plan and the interim research strategy.

10.3 Development Priorities

Ontario Parks may undertake the following developments as resources become available:
- Projects listed in sections 9.1 through 9.4 will be considered at such time that operational, capital and human resources are available.

10.4 Project Screening

All aspects of park management, development and operation will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Class EA-PPCR.

11.0 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Provincial parks provide a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits to communities, the region and the province. Some of the benefits can be measured in economic terms; other benefits cannot.

There are other benefits which provincial parks and protected areas provide to local communities, to the province and to society as a whole. The following are important benefits and help to demonstrate how the park supports our quality of life:
- Protection and contribution to ecological functions (e.g. water quality and quantity),
- Sustainability of natural resources,
- Health benefits from use of parks (mental, physical, spiritual benefits),
- Worker productivity (healthy and happy workers tend to be more productive - a visit to a provincial park can contribute),
- Educational benefits (young and old learning about our environment),
- Scientific benefits (research in provincial parks),
- International responsibilities to protect intact landscapes and biodiversity
- Business location decisions (quality of life/business) and community cohesion.
- Ecosystem services.

- Adaptation of ecosystems and society to a changing climate

Provincial parks help to make their communities attractive for residents, business as well as for tourists.

A tangible measure of the social and economic contribution of a protected area is the number of jobs it supports. The combined expenditures at Quetico Provincial Park support approximately 191 person years of employment in the province each year (Mulroney and Mosley 2007). This activity provides the area with employment opportunities and contributes to a stable local economy and community.

12.0 PLAN REPLACEMENT, ADJUSTMENT AND EXAMINATION

The park management plan can be replaced or adjusted to address changing issues or conditions. The plan will be examined after it has been in place for 20 years to determine whether it is relevant, effective and current or if adjustments or a replacement is needed.

A review may involve a reassessment of all or part of the plan, including classification, zoning, goal, objectives and all resource management, operations and development policies.

An amendment can be considered to address specific issues or needs.

13.0 SUMMARY OF ABORIGINAL, STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Involvement with Aboriginal communities and with the public and stakeholders was an important part of the Quetico Provincial Park management planning process. To date, public involvement in the development of the park management plan has included several opportunities:

- **Phase 1** - Terms of reference and invitation to participate
- **Phase 2** – Background information
- **Phase 3** – Management options
- **Phase 4** - Preliminary park management plan (current stage)
- **Phase 5** - Approved park management plan (final stage)

13.1 Invitation to Participate

The terms of reference were approved in July 2006. The invitation to participate was issued on July 17, 2006 and comments were received until October 12, 2006. A policy proposal notice was published on the Environmental Registry, Registry Number PB06E2023. Newspaper ads were placed in the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, the

Atikokan Progress, Fort Frances Times, and the Ely Echo (Minnesota, USA). Approximately 300 packages containing an invitation to participate letter and a copy of the terms of reference were mailed to the management plan contact list. The terms of reference were also posted on the Ontario Parks website.

Sixteen written comments were received from individuals and groups including park users, local residents, tourism operators, the Quetico Foundation, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), the Ministry of Culture, the Ontario Archaeological Society and the Union of Ontario Indians. Concerns and suggestions included:

- Requests to allow hunting in Quetico.
- Enforcement of existing policies.
- Concern for the protection of cultural resources.
- More emphasis on pre-trip environmental education / low-impact camping is necessary
- Concern for, greater emphasis on ecological integrity, greater park ecosystem/ watershed.
- Protection of wildlife corridors.
- Increased/ enhanced buffer zone.
- Recommendation for the park boundary to be based on watershed.
- Lack of geographic scope of plan.
- Issues related to wilderness preservation/ecological integrity largely absent in terms of reference.
- More monitoring and research should be proposed.
- Review of park carrying capacity:
  - Overcrowding
  - Loss of solitude
  - Heavy impact on portages/ campsites rehabilitation required
  - Review of quota/ reduce quota in some areas.
- No commercial activities in the park.
- Oppose aircraft landings in park.
- Support for motorized guiding phase out.
- Hiking - is it appropriate/ can it be accommodated.
- Opposition to development:
  - Oppose new access points, roads
  - Oppose expanded recreational activities
  - Oppose increased marketing- overuse/overcrowding
  - Oppose logging/road construction/hydro-electric development adjacent to park.
- Opposition to presence of Prospector Association on Advisory Committee.
- Requests for an open house in Toronto.
- Corrections provided for text and figures.

Engagement was ongoing, with LLCFN participation on the planning team and on the advisory group. Regular updates on the progress of park planning occurred at the Agreement of Coexistence implementation committee monthly meetings. Numerous attempts were made to arrange a community meeting, but none resulted in a meeting.

13.2 Background Information

The background information document for the Quetico Provincial Park Management Plan project was released for public review on August 29, 2007 until October 13, 2007 for a 45 day review. The policy proposal notice was updated and posted on the Environmental Registry, Registry Number PB06E2023. Approximately 300 packages were mailed to the management plan contact list, containing an opportunity to review letter and a copy of the background information document.

An newspaper ad was placed in the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, the Atikokan Progress, the Fort Frances Times and the Ely Echo (Minnesota, USA), providing an opportunity to review the background information. Open houses were held in late September and early October in Thunder Bay (13 attendees, 2 comments received), Atikokan (16 attendees, 1 comment received), Ely (22 attendees), Fort Frances (3 attendees) and in Toronto (8 attendees) prior to the Quetico Foundation Annual Dinner.

Engagement was ongoing with Lac La Croix participation on the planning team and on the advisory group. Regular updates on the progress of park planning occurred at the Agreement of Coexistence implementation committee monthly meetings. Numerous attempts were made to arrange a community meeting, but none resulted in a meeting.

The Quetico Management Plan Advisory Group met on two occasions: in November 2007 and in February 2008 to review of the feedback received on the background information stage and to identify preliminary management alternatives.

Twenty eight comments were received (21 by mail/email, 5 open house comment sheets and 1 verbal) including park users, local residents, tourism operators, Atikokan Sportsman's Conservation Club, the Quetico Foundation, the Izaak Walton League of America, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the OFAH. Concerns and suggestions included:

- Opposition to possible new access points into the interior (east side, Batchewaung, King Point).
- Opposition to possible development of a new access road, parking area and portage to the shores of Batchewaung Lake.
- Support for defining access zone and campground boundaries.
- Opposition to designation of access zone corridors in the northeastern portion of W1 on existing logging roads to facilitate mechanized trail grooming for cross-country skiing and/or dog sledding.

- Support for phase-out of trapping in Quetico Provincial Park by non-native trappers by January 1st, 2010 and transfer of lines to Lac La Croix.
- Concern over number of flights over park each year and the need for flight ceiling/restrictions.
- Suggestion for appropriate policies to deal with human waste in the interior; many suggested installation of box privies, especially in heavily used/ nearest entry.
- Support for greater emphasis on cultural heritage and archaeological resources.
- Support for further development of the trails system for hiking and skiing.
- Opposition to mechanized grooming of ski trails, except in campground.
- Opposition to designated campsites in the interior of Quetico.
- Suggestion for limits on the length of stay on a lake and/or site (most supported limit on site most opposed limit on lake).
- Support for the active restoration of degraded campsites.
- Opposition to development of new facilities to accommodate new activities.
- Support for the creation of more campsites.
- Suggestion for a variable fee system to reflect different use patterns and season of use.
- Suggested changes to facilities to accommodate an aging demographic of park visitors.
- Concern about lack of enforcement, lack of presence in park, need for more staff-wardens, conservation officers.
- Support for an increase in winter staff to handle winter activity at French Lake.
- Concern over development outside of park, especially Namakan River hydro projects, logging, and mining activity on the east side.
- Suggestion that the park plan has a greater emphasis on the importance of Greater Park Ecosystem in planning.
- Suggestion for a longer operating season – potable water on longer, staff available for assistance.
- Support for helping LLC realize goal of motorized guiding phase-out.

13.3 Management Options

The Management Options document for the Quetico Provincial Park management plan was released for public review for 60 days on August 16 2010 until October 15 2010. The policy proposal notice was updated and posted on the Environmental Registry, Registry Number PB06E2023. Notices were mailed out to the management plan review contact list.

A newspaper ad was placed in the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, the Atikokan Progress, the Fort Frances Times and the Ely Echo (Minnesota, USA), offering the opportunity to comment. Open houses were held in late September in Thunder Bay (6 attendees, 1 comment received), Atikokan (16 attendees, 6 comments received), Ely (4 attendees), Fort Frances (1 attendee).

The focus of this review period was to seek feedback on nine (9) management topics.

Information provided on these topics included a brief background of each topic, including a summary of related legislative and/or policy direction; a broad assessment of actual and potential impacts to park values; and perceived ecological stress. For each topic, possible management policies (options) were presented to address the topic, and respondents were asked to identify their preferred option.

An analysis of the response to the management options document was prepared, and can be found in Appendix C.

13.4 Preliminary Plan

Aboriginal communites, stakeholders and the public will have an opportunity to review the Preliminary Management Plan for a minimum period of forty-five (45) days after its formal release. This will allow interested participants to comment on proposals in the plan.

Ontario Parks will retain reference copies of the preliminary management plan and the approved park management plan on file.

14.0 REFERENCES

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15.0 Scientific Names of Plants and Animals Referenced in the Document

alternate-leaved dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
American basswood (*Tilia americana*)
American larch *(Larix laricina)*
American white elm *(Ulmus americana*),
balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*)
black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*)
black spruce (*Picea mariana*)
blunt-leaved orchid (*Platanthera obtusata*)
blunt-lobed hepatica (*Anemone americana*)
bur oak *(Quercus macrocarpa)*
chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum)*
dwarf birch (*Betula spp*)
dwarf horsetail (*Equisetum scirpoides)*
downy yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*)
eastern white cedar *(Thuja occidentalis)*
encrusted saxifrage (*Saxifraga paniculata)*
field sedge (*Carex conoidea*)
fir-clubmoss (*Huperzia porophila*)
freshwater cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*)
fringed loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliate*)
green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
green alder (*Alnus viridis*)
hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.
highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)
jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*)
Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*)
large-tooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)
leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*)
limestone oak fern (*Gymnocarpium robertianum*)
Maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*)
Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*)
nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
narrow-leaved floating burreed (*Sparganium angustifolium*)
northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*)
orange lichen *(Xanthara elegans)*
ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)
pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*)
poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*)
purple oat grass (*Schizachne* purpurascens)
red-disked water lily (*Nuphar rubrodisca*)
red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
red pine (*Pinus resinosa*)

river club-rush (*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*)
royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
sand cherry (*Prunus pumila*)
Saskatoon berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
sessile-leaved bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*)
silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
small sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*)
softstem club-rush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*)
smooth carrion flower (*Smilax herbacea*)
smooth cliffbrake (*Pellaea glabella*)
smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)
smooth woodsia (*Woodsia glabella)*
snowy cinquefoil (*Potentilla nivea*)
Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)
sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* spp.)
stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*)
trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
water dock (*Rumex orbiculatus*)
white birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
white elm (*Ulmus spp*)
white pine *(Pinus strobus)*
white spruce (*Picea glauca)*
white rattlesnake-root (*Prenanthes alba*)
wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
winter bentgrass (*Agrostis hyemalis*)
yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)

American marten (*Martes americana*)
American mink (*Mustela vison*)
bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
beaver (*Castor canadensis*)
black bear (*Ursus americanus*)
deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*)
eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)
fisher (*Martes pennanti*)
least chipmunk (*Tamias minimus*)
little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)
lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)
marten (*Martes americana*)
meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)
mink (*Mustela vison*)
moose (*Alces alces*)
muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus)
northern short-tailed shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*)
red-backed vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi)*
red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

red squirrel *(Tamiasciurus hudsonicus)*
river otter (*Lutra canadensis*)
star-nosed mole (*Condylura cristata*)
southern bog lemming (*Synaptomys cooperi*)
snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*)
timber wolf (*Canis lupus*)
white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
woodchuck (*Marmota monax*)
woodland jumping mouse (*Napaeozapus insignis*)

bald eagle (*Haliaeeutus leucocephalus*)
black-backed woodpecker (Picoides arcticus)
black-capped chickadee (Parus atricapillus)
Cooper's hawk (Accipiter cooperii)
common redpoll (Carduelis flammea)
evening grosbeak (Coccothraustes vespertinus)
least flycatcher *(Empidonax minimus)*
gray jay (Perisoreus canadensis)
great gray owl (Strix nebulosa)
magnolia warbler (Dendroica magnolia)
mourning warbler (Oporornis philadelphia)
Nashville warbler (Vermivora ruficapilla)
northern goshawk (Accipiter gentilis)
osprey (Pandion haliaetus)
pine grosbeak (Pinicola enucleator)
pine siskin (Carduelis pinus)
raven (Corvus corax)
purple finch (Carpodacus purpureus)
red crossbill (Loxia curvirostra)
red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus)*
sharp-shinned hawk (Accipiter striatus).
Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)
spruce grouse (Dendragapus canadensis)
white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis)*
white-winged crossbill (Loxia leucoptera)
winter wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)
yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata)*
common merganser (*Mergus merganser*)
common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)
black duck (*Anas rubripes*)
mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
common loon (*Gavia immer*)

American toad (*Bufo americanus*)
blue spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)
boreal chorus frog (*Pseudacris maculata*)

common gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)
eastern red-backed salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*)
northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*)
red-bellied snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*)
snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)
western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*)
spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)
wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*)

black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)
burbot (*Lota lota*)
cisco (lake herring) (*Coregonus artedii*)
lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*)
lake trout *(Salvelinus namaycush)*
lake whitefish (Coregonus clupeaformis)
largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)
northern pike (*Esox lucius*)
rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*)
smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieui*)
sunfish species (*Lepomis spp)*
walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum vitreum)*
yellow perch (*Perca flavescnes*)

bluet *(Enallagma spp.)*
Cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*)
Canada darner (*Aeshna canadensis*)
monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)
Pygmy Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus howei*)
Williamson's Emerald (*Somatochlora williamsoni*)

Appendix A – GOVERNING PRINCIPLES OF THE LAC LA CROIX AGREEMENT OF CO-EXISTENCE

The formal government-to-government relationship between Ontario and the Lac La Croix First Nation is guided by the following governing principles contained within the Agreement of Co-Existence.

1) *All governments in Ontario, provincial and First Nations alike, have a shared responsibility to preserve, protect and enhance lands and natural resources for the benefit of future generations.*

2) *The creation of Quetico Provincial Park has partially severed the people of Lac La Croix First Nation from their sacrosanct relationship with their ancestral homeland, the social health of Mind, Body and Spirit which is attributable to their relationship with the land and the economic benefits derived from the land area.*

3) *The Parties agree that in light of indignities suffered by the citizens of the First Nation, their displacement from their traditional homeland and the loss of significant economic opportunities due to the creation of Quetico Provincial Park, it is vital to foster and promote a co-operative government-to-government relationship of co-existence which recognizes the First Nation as a co decision-maker in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement in the Quetico Area while providing significant cultural, social and economic opportunities to the First Nation.*

4) *The First Nation must be an active and full participant in the future planning, development and management of the Quetico Area in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and share in the economic benefits derived from that Area.*

5) *The maintenance of the wilderness values of Quetico Provincial Park is of paramount importance to the people of Ontario and is consistent with sustaining the cultural and social integrity of both the First Nation and the Park.*

6) *The Parties agree that courses of action must be developed and implemented to meet the First Nation's economic needs and aspirations while consistent with the wilderness values of Quetico Provincial Park.*

7) *The Parties recognize that the lands and resources of Quetico Provincial Park have always been relied upon to fulfil many of the economic needs of the First Nation but that Quetico Provincial Park cannot be relied upon to fulfil all of the economic development needs of the First Nation.*

8) *The Parties recognize that improved power boat and aircraft access by the First Nation, in the short term, to Quetico Provincial Park is critical for the First Nation to realize its economic development needs and viability.*

9) *The Parties agree, that in keeping with the principles outlined above, to work towards the elimination of power boat and aircraft access to Quetico Provincial Park.*

Appendix B Use of Motorized Guiding Lakes in Wilderness Zone 2

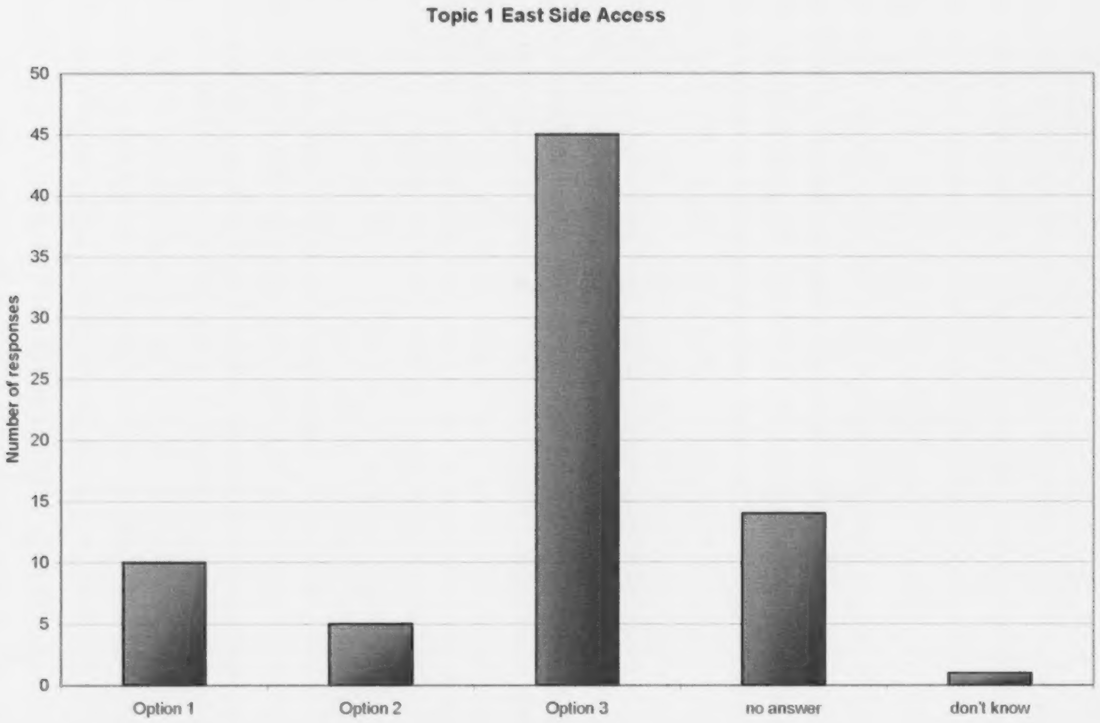
Lake	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Beaverhouse	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Quetico	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Cirrus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Wolseley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Tanner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Minn	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
McAree	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Argo	X	X	X	X											
Crooked					X	X	X								
Basswood	X	X	X	X											
Poohbah	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iron					X										
Badwater					X										
Roland						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Middle Roland						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Omemee															
Cub															
Bearpelt															
Bottle															
Wicksteed															
Darkwater															

Appendix C SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON THE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The focus of this review period was to seek feedback on nine (9) management topics. Information provided on these topics included a brief background of each topic, including a summary of related legislative and/or policy direction; a broad assessment of actual and potential impacts to park values; and perceived ecological stress. For each topic, possible management policies (options) were presented to address the topic, and respondents were asked to identify their preferred option. The following summarizes the distribution of public support for the options provided and how this input was considered. Seventy-five written responses to the management options were received; some respondents included written comments on additional subjects relating to park management. A summary of these open-ended comments is included after the discussion of the nine topics. Generally, respondents supported the preferred option identified in the management option topics.

It is important to note that all comments received have been considered in the development of the preliminary park management plan and the most popular options may or may not be the preferred option put forth in the plan. This document is intended to demonstrate how the comments received were considered.

TOPIC 1 East Side Access to the Park



OPTION 1: No new access is created on the eastern boundary of the park. Aircraft may continue to land on Clay Lake, or Mack Lake during periods of low water as permitted by the park superintendent. This is the status quo option.

OPTION 2: No new access is created on the eastern boundary of the park. The Mack Lake entry location will be changed to Cullen Lake via the portage from Ross Lake (most recently maintained in 2008). Aircraft will not be permitted to land on Mack Lake but will land instead outside of the park on Ross Lake. Mack Lake aircraft landing will be removed from regulation.

OPTION 3: New access is created on the eastern boundary of the park. The Mack Lake entry location will be changed to the Wawaig River. New road access will be created at the Wawiag River from existing logging roads (upon agreement with the Sustainable Forest License holder regarding road liability/maintenance). Based upon preliminary discussion with the Sustainable Forest License holder use and access to the road should not pose a problem. The access point will include a parking lot and a portage located outside of the park. Mack Lake aircraft landing will be removed from regulation. The remote access designation would not be changed. This is the preferred option.

Overview of comments:

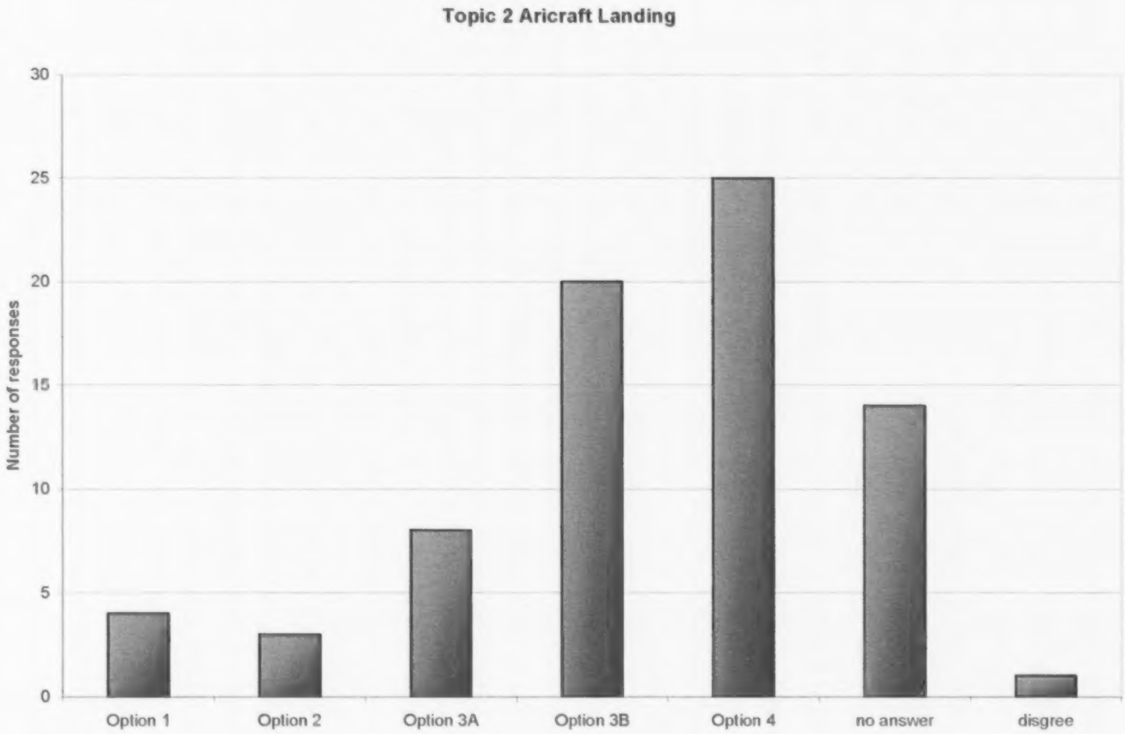
Generally good support (59%) was expressed for the preferred Option 3. Commenters in support of this option expressed support for the removal of aircraft landings on Mack Lake, improvement of the wilderness character with the decrease in aircraft activity in the area, and easier/less expensive access for park visitors to the east side of the park by road.

Other commenters identified concerns regarding the availability of resources for construction and maintenance, road use compliance enforcement, visitor dispersal, and long term road access (maintenance) via the sustainable forest licence (SFL) holder. As well concerns were expressed regarding the maintenance of the remote nature of the eastern part of the park/Wawaig River area, lack of capacity for increased user numbers and potential impacts to ecological integrity (EI).

How comments were considered:

Based upon consideration of the responses received, Option 2 was chosen with the 3 permit daily entry retained. This option is expected to maintain current levels accessibility to the east side of the park as well as to remove aircraft landings from Mack Lake and to reduce air traffic in this part of the park. The selection of this management option improves EI by removing aircraft landings from Mack Lake and thereby supports the park goal to maintain/enhance EI. This choice also supports the provision of compatible outdoor recreation opportunities by maintaining both the physical and the financial accessibility of the east side of the park for canoeists. This choice also improves the wilderness aesthetic and experience of park visitors. Proposed policy for this topic is found in section **6.4**.

TOPIC 2 Aircraft Landing



OPTION 1: Commercial aircraft may land by permit for recreation purposes only on the following bodies of water (open or frozen): Beaverhouse Lake, Basswood Lake (King Point), and Mack Lake. Commercial aircraft carrying Canadian residents holding a Canadian resident permit only may land by permit for recreation purposes only on Saganaga Lake (Cache Bay). Private or commercial aircraft may also land by permit for access only to private properties and tenured land on lakes not included in the preceding list. This would formalize the fly-in trial periods on Cache Bay and King Point. This is the status quo option.

OPTION 2: Commercial aircraft landing on Beaverhouse Lake will no longer be permitted. The other commercial aircraft landings as described above in option 1 (Basswood Lake, Mack Lake and Saganaga Lake (Cache Bay) will continue to be permitted. Aircraft may land on lakes (open or frozen) by permit for access to private properties and tenured land only.

OPTION 3A: Commercial aircraft landing on Beaverhouse Lake and Mack Lake will no longer be permitted by anyone, except for park management purposes or to provide emergency services. The other commercial aircraft landings as described above in Option 1 (Basswood Lake and Saganaga Lake (Cache Bay) will continue to be permitted. Aircraft may land on lakes (open or frozen) by permit for access to private properties and tenured land only.

OPTION 3B: This option is the same as 3A except, landing would be permitted only by Canadian residents and Canadian outfitters/independents, subject to a change in regulation (O. reg. 346/07 Mechanized Travel in Wilderness Parks). Aircraft may land on lakes (open or frozen) by permit for access to private properties and tenured land only. This is the preferred option.

OPTION 4: All commercial aircraft landings in the park will no longer be permitted (Beaverhouse Lake, Mack Lake, Basswood Lake and Cache Bay). Aircraft may land on lakes (open or frozen) by permit for access to private properties and tenured land only.

Overview of comments:

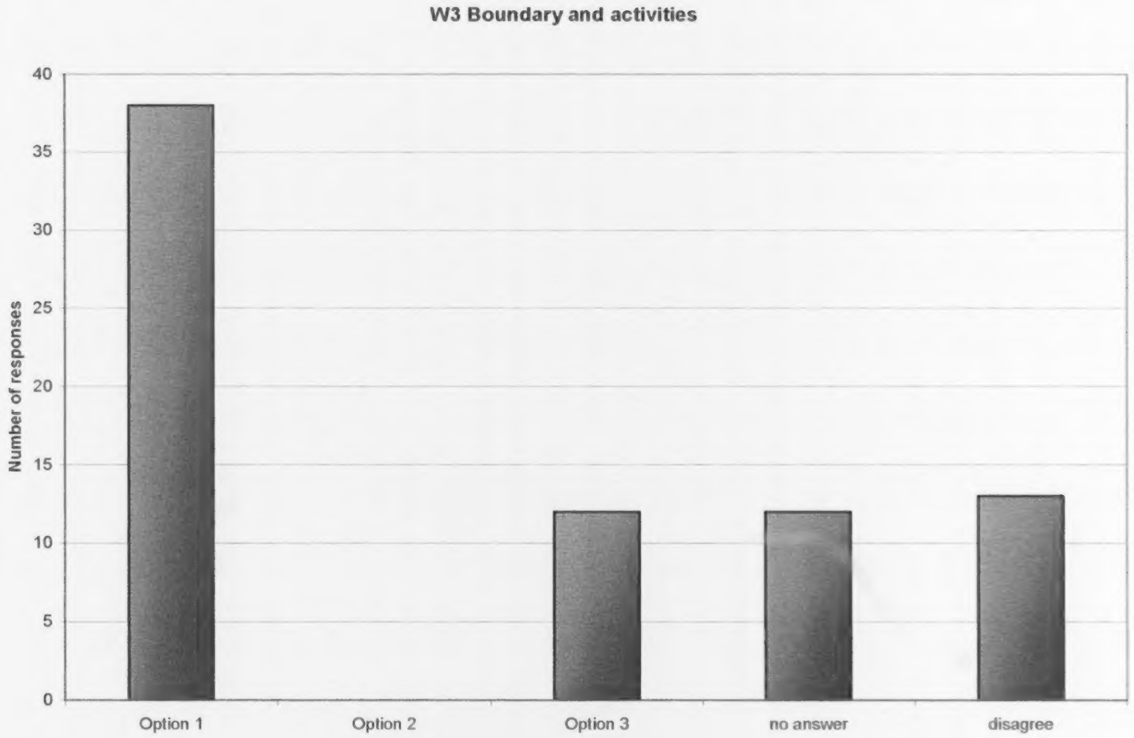
Fair support was shown for elimination of Beaverhouse and Mack landings (Options 3A 10% and 3B 25%). Most respondents (33%) supported the removal of all commercial aircraft landings. The majority of respondents (72%) support some degree of reduction of aircraft landings.

Respondents supported reduction of landings in the park in general. Elimination of all aircraft landings was cited as being the most compliant with wilderness classification and of benefit to the quality of the wilderness experience as well as most supportive of EI. Multiple commenters expressed support for the creation of a flight ceiling over the park for similar reasons.

How comments were considered:

Based upon consideration of the responses received, Option 3B was chosen with the combined 3 permit daily entry retained, although only a slight majority of respondents supported elimination of these landings through selecting either 3A or 3B, and almost as many respondents indicated support for the complete elimination of aircraft landings in the park. This option will remove commercial aircraft landings at Beaverhouse and Mack Lakes, while continuing to permit commercial aircraft landings at Cache Bay (Saganaga) and King Point (Basswood) for Canadian residents and outfitters. This supports the retention of aircraft landings for Canadians to access the southern boundary of Quetico without having to cross into the USA to access the park. Private or commercial aircraft may also land by permit for access only to private properties and tenured land on Batchewaung and Saganaga lakes. In response to the strong support expressed for creation of a flight ceiling park managers will discourage overflights including adoption of an overflight protocol of 2000' above ground level (AGL), and will investigate the opportunity to create a regulated flight ceiling over the park. The selection of this management option helps to improve EI by removing aircraft landings on Mack Lake and Beaverhouse Lake and thereby supports the park goal to maintain/enhance EI. This choice also supports the provision of compatible outdoor recreation opportunities by retaining the accessibility by air of the southern boundary of the park for Canadian canoeists. The adoption of an overflight protocol will enhance the wilderness experience of park users. Proposed policy for this topic is found in section **8.1.7.3**.

Topic 3 **W3 boundary and activities**



OPTION 1: The zone will encompass the shoreline of French Lake and the waters of French Lake (excluding the Dawson Trail campground and French Lake access zone) to a distance of 60m from the shore, extending east to the north bank of the French River, extending west to the Pines on Pickerel Lake from Baptism Creek, and south from the Pines to Sawmill Lake on a southeasterly bearing of **63°** as shown in Figure 5. The size of the zone will be set at 1993 hectares. This represents less than 1% **(0.40%)** of the total area of the park. This is the preferred option.

OPTION 2: The zone will encompass the shoreline of French Lake and the waters of French Lake (excluding the Dawson Trail campground and French Lake access zone) to the northern park boundary, and extending east along this boundary to the north bank of the French River, and south to the intersection of the French River and Baptism Creek, and west to the outlet of the Pickerel River into Pickerel Lake, as shown in Figure 5. The size of the W3 zone will be set at 2011 hectares. This represents less than 1% (**0.40%**) of the total area of the park.

OPTION 3: The zone will encompass the shoreline of French Lake and the waters of French Lake (excluding the Dawson Trail campground and French Lake access zone) to a distance of 60m from the shore and extending east to the north bank of the French River, and south to the east bank of Baptism Creek, as shown in Figure 5. The size of the zone will be set at 920 hectares. This represents less than 1% (**0.18%**) of the total area of the park.

Overview of comments:

Although support was demonstrated for two of the three iterations of a W3 zone (Option 1 at 50% and Option 3 at 17%), close to 1/5th of the respondents (18%) expressed a strong disagreement with the W3 zone in principle. Those respondents who opposed the designation for a W3 zone included individual park users as well as environmental non-government organizations (ENGOs).

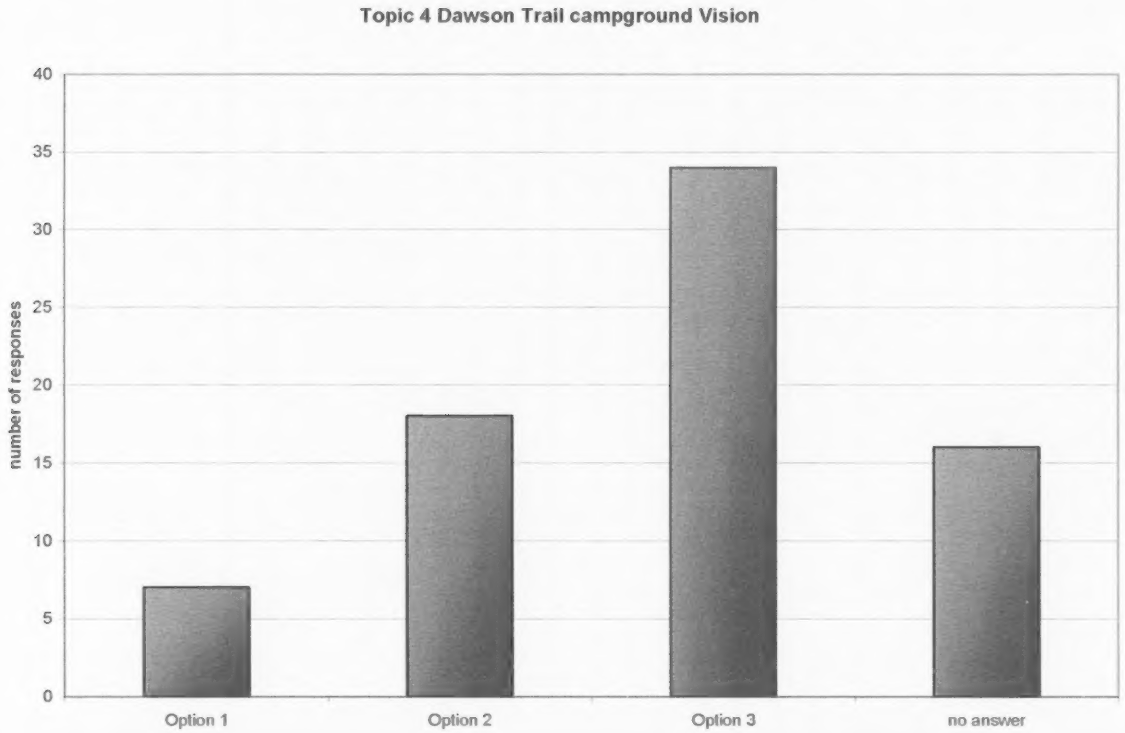
Supporters of the preferred option for the largest iteration of the W3 zone expressed interest in attracting new users and new activities with the concept of a multiple use type zone. However supporters of this option also identified concerns about sufficient resources for maintenance, staffing, and enforcement. Concern was also expressed regarding the potential development of campsites on the west shore of French Lake detracting from the availability of day-use opportunities for users of the nearby campground.

Those who opposed the W3 zone concept identified concerns about the introduction of new, incompatible activities (i.e., mechanized grooming/trails, mountain bikes and dogsledding) as well as potential impacts from users (noise, litter). They also expressed concern that it is inappropriate to create a new type of wilderness zone, that it will detract from the integrity of Quetico's wilderness and that the creation of a W3 zone would be precedent-setting for other wilderness class parks in the province.

How comments were considered:

Based upon consideration of the responses received that supported the designation of a W3 zone, Option 1 was selected. This option will delineate an area as a day-use wilderness zone (W3) for the provision of land-based non-mechanized wilderness activities close to the Dawson Trail campground. Examples of activities include: hiking, classic cross-country skiing, walk-in campsites, canoe-in campsites, and warm-up tents. This option provides improved opportunities for compatible new land-based outdoor recreation activities and park users. Proposed policy for this topic is found in section **6.1.**

Topic 4 Dawson Trail Campground Vision



OPTION 1: The Dawson Trail campground area will be managed in keeping with the character of Quetico, which may include non-mechanized recreation such as natural heritage education, hiking, cross-country skiing, skijoring (skiing while pulled by a dog), mountain biking (in designated areas), as well as providing staging for day trips and short overnight trips into the interior. A limited number of sites may have electrical hook-ups added up to a maximum 40% of sites, or be enlarged or merged to accommodate larger (over 32') recreational camping units (RVs) and the associated spur/back-in/pull-through areas, as demand warrants. This is the status quo option.

OPTION 2: The Dawson Trail campground area will be managed in keeping with the character of Quetico, which may include non-mechanized recreation such as natural heritage education, hiking, cross-country skiing, skijoring (skiing while pulled by a dog), mountain biking (in designated areas), as well as providing staging for day trips and short overnight trips into the interior. The existing 107 camp sites within the Dawson Trail campground will be maintained. No additional campsites will be created, enlarged or electrified. Dawson Trail Campground will continue to be managed as described above in option 1. Dawson Trail campground will not emphasize development to accommodate the very large recreational camping units (RVs).

OPTION 3: The Dawson Trail campground area will be managed in keeping with the character of Quetico, which may include non-mechanized recreation such as natural heritage education, hiking, cross-country skiing, skijoring (skiing while pulled by a dog), mountain biking (in designated areas), as well as providing staging for day trips and short overnight trips into the interior. The number of campsites within the Dawson Trail campground may be increased by a maximum of 20 sites (to a maximum of 127 sites) as need/demand warrants; some of these new campsites may be created for walk-in camp sites, canvas tents, or yurts. A limited number of these new sites may be created to accommodate larger (over 32') recreational camping units (RVs) and the associated spur/back-in/pull-through areas, as demand warrants. A limited number of sites may have electrical hook-ups added up to a maximum 40% of sites, as need/demand warrants. Dawson Trail Campground will continue to be managed as described above in option 1. A group campsite may be developed as demand warrants. This is the preferred option.

Overview of comments:

Supporters of the preferred Option 3 (45%) expressed support for increased campground use by the large RV market, increased visitation by seniors, and new activities including trails and mountain bikes. Some supporters of the preferred option did so with the caveat that they do not support the accommodation of large RVs but do support the other elements of the preferred option.

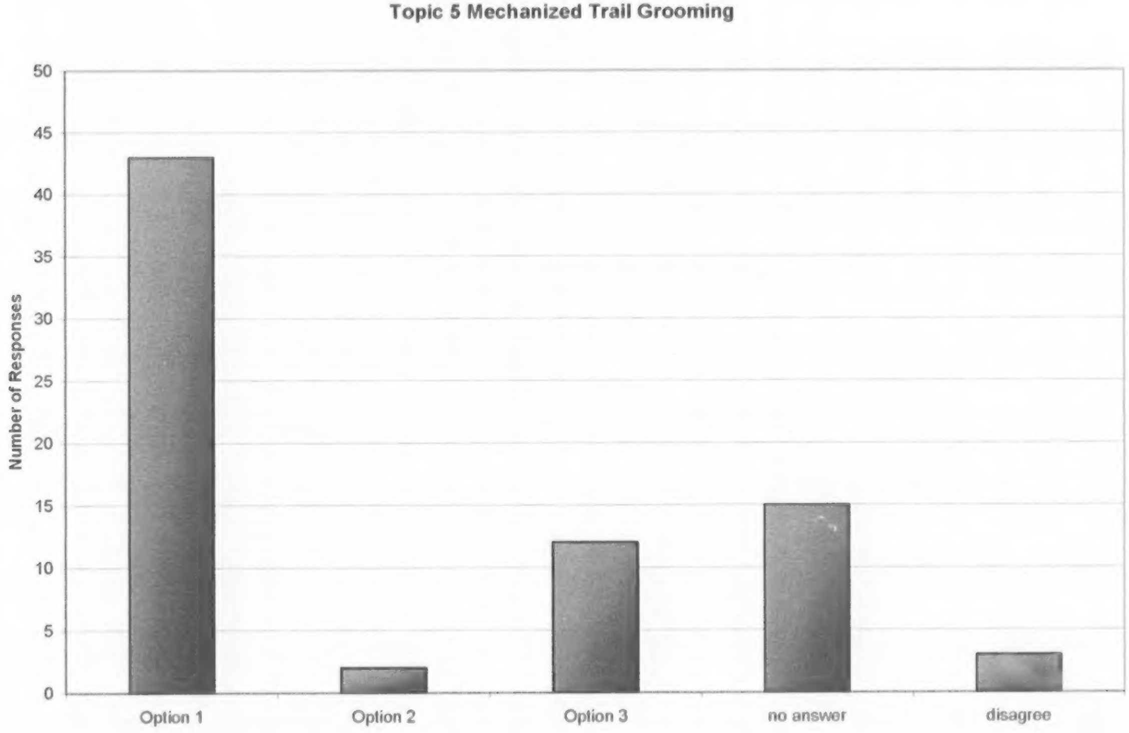
Respondents supporting the status quo Option 1 (10%) expressed concerns about resources required for maintenance and the adequacy of present facilities. General support was expressed for walk-in sites, group campsite, and yurts.

Respondents supporting Option 2 (24%) expressed concerns regarding the accommodation of large RVs given the park's wilderness classification e.g., that it is incompatible with the park's wilderness character as well as incompatible with tent campers and smaller units.

How comments were considered:

Based upon consideration of the responses received, Option 3 was chosen, subject to changes required to address comments. This option will provide for the provision of up to 20 new sites in the Dawson Trail campground to provide opportunities for RVs, group camping, walk-in campsites and yurts. Future site developments will continue to design for small and medium sized RVs (under 32 feet). This option provides improved opportunities for compatible new activities and park users, while managing the campground in keeping with Quetico's character. Proposed policy for this topic is found in section **8.1.1.**

Topic 5 Mechanized ski trail grooming



OPTION 1 Mechanized trail grooming (dragging and track-setting) will occur within the present footprint of cross-country ski trails as presented previously in **Topic 3, Option 1**. This would include the trails within the Dawson Trail campground as well as The Pines, Sawmill Lake and French River Trails. This is the preferred option.

OPTION 2: Mechanized trail grooming (dragging and track-setting) is limited to existing cross-country ski trails within the access zone as presented previously in **Topic 3, Option 3**. This would follow the trails within the Dawson Trail campground and would include the French River Trail.

OPTION 3: Mechanized trail grooming (dragging and track-setting) is limited to the campground roads.

Overview of comments:

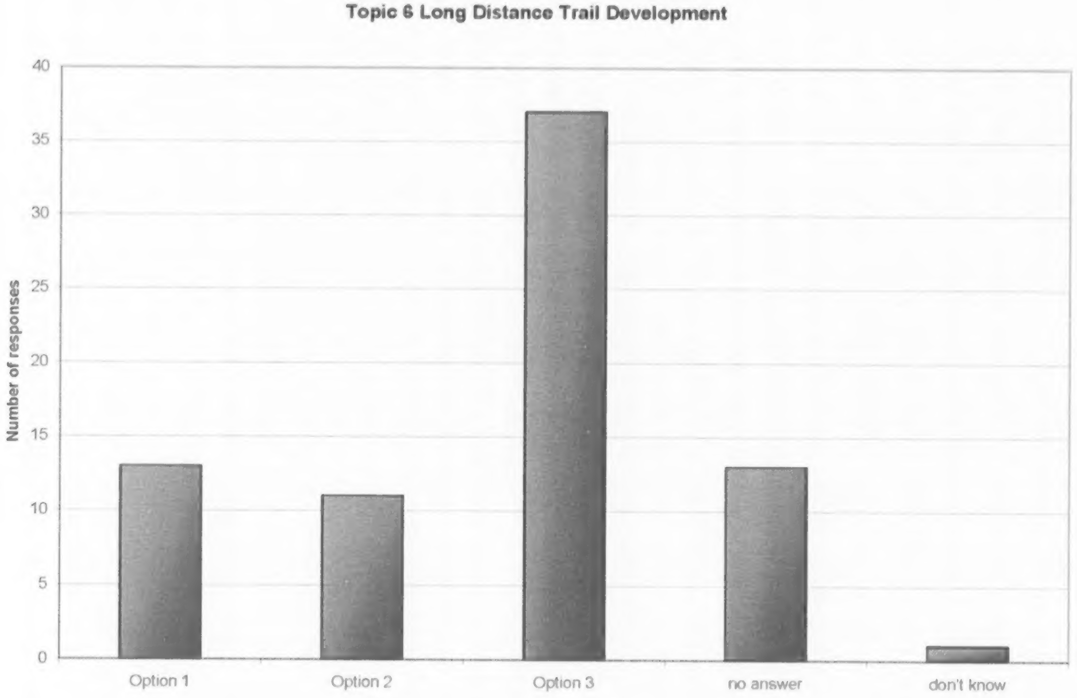
Good support (56%) was expressed for the preferred Option 1. Comments in support of this option focussed on increased opportunities for winter use, for local users, local students, and active seniors. However concerns were expressed regarding human resource requirements for maintenance of trails and conflicts with the trapper using some of the same trials.

Comments in support of grooming only on the campground roads (Option 3, 16%) focussed on the impacts of grooming, maintenance resources, the link to the creation of a W3 zone and lack of support for such. Willingness to support grooming as a non-conforming activity without creation of W3 zone was also mentioned. Comments in support of no grooming at all cited concerns regarding impacts to EI, conflict with wilderness classification and resource availability for maintenance.

How comments were considered:

Based upon consideration of the responses received, Option 1 was selected, subject to changes required to address comments. This option will provide for the provision of mechanized grooming on park trails for classic style Nordic skiing only, within the proposed W3 zone. Skate skiing is permitted only on park roadways in the campground. New classic style ski trials intended for mechanized grooming will be developed only within the existing series of loops that presently comprise the groomed trail system footprint. This option supports the provision of compatible outdoor recreation opportunities by providing accessible day-use skiing in the area around Dawson Trail campground. Proposed policy for this topic is found in section **8.1.4.**

Topic 6 Long distance back country trail development



OPTION 1: No long distance trail development is permitted.

OPTION 2: Long distance trail development (maximum tread width 1.5 – 2 meters) is only permitted on the network of abandoned logging roads (many of which have grown in) suited to hiking in the NE corner of the park (those previously used as hiking trails).

OPTION 3: New long distance trail development (maximum tread width 1.5 – 2 meters) is permitted anywhere in park where it is appropriate and does not conflict with other park uses, but the focus will be on trail development in the NE corner of the park on elevated terrain. This is the status quo and preferred option.

Overview of comments:

Support was demonstrated (50%) for the preferred Option 3. Comments in support of this option included increasing users and activities; however concerns were also expressed about potential impacts to park values and to EI. Respondents emphasized the prevention of conflicts with canoeists, and the use of barriers to prevent unauthorized motorized access by snowmobiles or ATVs.

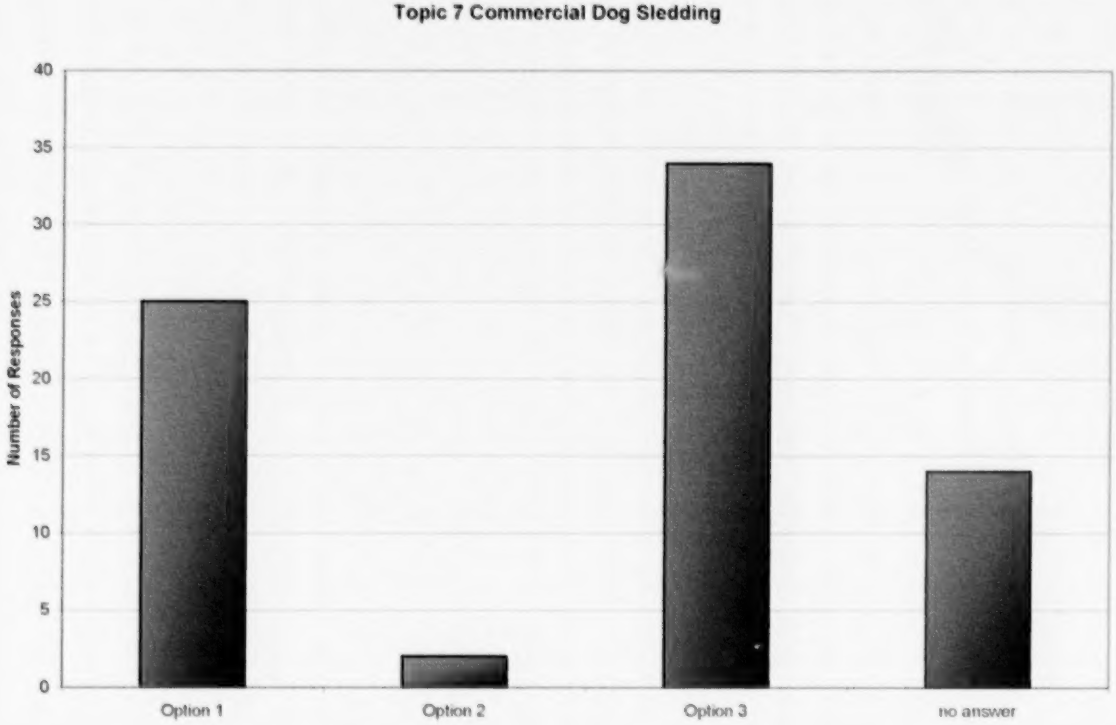
Comments in support of Option 2 (15%) focussed on avoiding conflict with canoe routes by limiting trail development to the park's NE corner and excluding mechanized use of trails by ATVs, bikes, and snowmobiles.

Respondents in support of Option 1 (16%) expressed concerns regarding impacts to EI, resources required for trail maintenance, incompatibility of hiking trails with canoeing/wilderness, access by mechanized recreationists and compliance enforcement challenges. Suggestions were made for a market analysis of the demand for trails, because of scarce maintenance resources, potential dilution of the wilderness experience and competition with hiking opportunities provided in other regional parks such as Sleeping Giant and Pukaskwa.

How comments were considered:

Based upon consideration of the responses received, Option 3 was selected, subject to changes required to address comments. This option will provide for the provision of long distance hiking trails within the NE corner of the park on elevated terrain where it does not conflict with canoe routes. This development will be undertaken as per existing park policy, a trail management plan and Class EA-PPCR review. This choice supports the provision of compatible outdoor recreation opportunities by providing for long distance trail development in the northeast corner of the park. Proposed policy for this topic is found in section **8.1.4**.

Topic 7 Commercial dog sledding



OPTION 1: Commercial dog sledding will not be permitted anywhere in the park. No private large dog team (i.e., more than 1-2 dogs) will be permitted in the park.

OPTION 2: Commercially outfitted dog sledding will be permitted in the French Lake access zone only ***after*** a five-year trial period to assess the impacts to the park's resource base and benefits to the local economy.

OPTION 3: Commercially outfitted dog sledding may be permitted in the French Lake access and adjacent threshold wilderness zone ***after*** a five-year trial period to assess the impacts to the park's resource base and benefits to the local economy. If permitted, a quota for this activity would be implemented. This is the preferred option.

Overview of comments:

Support was demonstrated (46%) for preferred Option 3. Comments in support of this option cited increased/new winter activity, and emphasized the importance of monitoring impacts during the pilot. Suggestions included the use of designated campsites and travel routes to minimize impacts, and to limit this opportunity for Canadian outfitters only. Concerns were raised about impacts to wildlife, and the logistical challenges of compliance monitoring and enforcement.

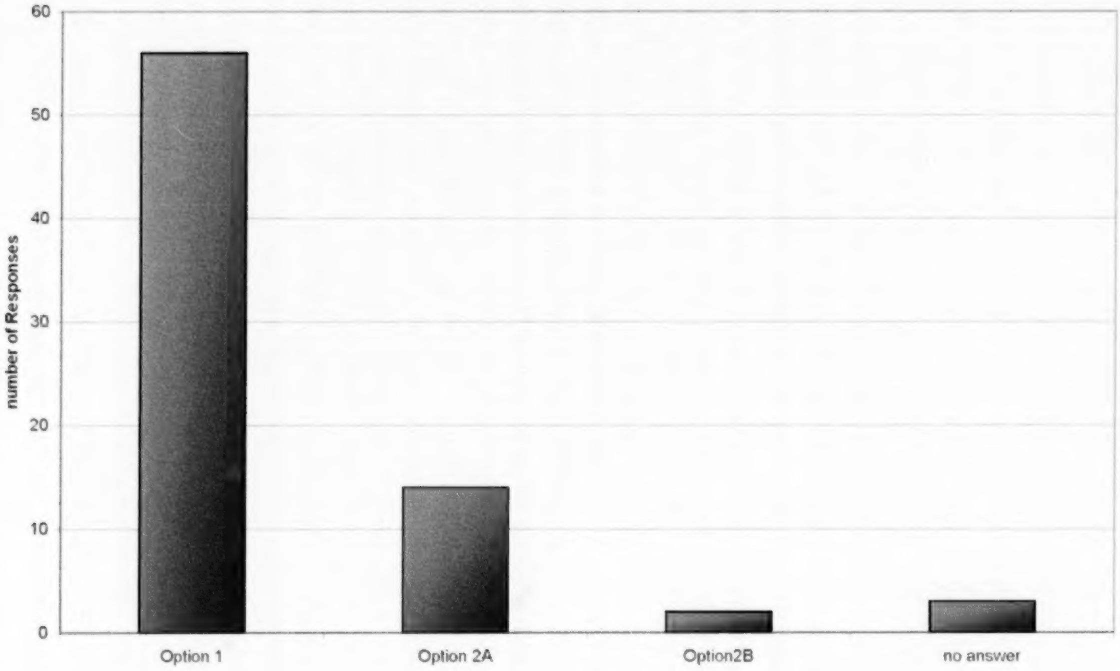
Support was also demonstrated for not permitting commercial dogsledding (status quo Option 1 36%). Comments in relation to this option cited: challenges with compliance enforcement and monitoring of impacts; proper canid feces disposal; incompatibility with wilderness classification regarding commercial activity, and potential impacts to wild canids and wildlife in general; respondents also questioned the likelihood of discontinuation after a 5 year trial/pilot. Those respondents who opposed the introduction of commercial dogsledding in Quetico included individual park users as well as environmental non-government organizations (ENGOs).

How comments were considered:

Based upon consideration of all of the responses and comments received including those who supported the introduction of commercial dogsledding and those who opposed it, the status quo Option 1 with modification was selected. This course of action has been chosen in consideration of the relative opposition expressed for the introduction of commercial dogsledding, the concerns articulated about commercial dogsledding being incompatible with the wilderness classification of the park and the abundance of crown land readily available in the area for the pursuit of this activity. This course of action also responds to the number of open ended comments that expressed concerns about maintenance of both wilderness and ecological integrity. The selection of this management option maintains EI by allowing the considerations of introducing a new commercial opportunity to be overridden by potential and expected impacts to ecological integrity and thereby supports the park goal to maintain/enhance EI. Proposed policy for this topic is found in section **8.1.**

Topic 8 Designated travel routes and campsites

Topic 8 Designated Travel Routes and Campsites



OPTION 1: No changes to travel or campsites will be made. Although encouraged to use sites designated by the presence of a primitive stone fireplace, interior visitors may continue to camp in any suitable area/site, in consideration of the prohibition on damage to trees and vegetation. Visitors may continue to travel anywhere in the park that is not closed to travel, (in other words go anywhere and camp anywhere). This is the status quo option.

OPTION 2: Interior visitors must camp on a designated campsite, identified by the presence of a primitive stone fireplace and eventually by the site's inclusion of the Quetico Park canoeing map. Quetico Park is not considering the use of signage to designate sites.

OPTION 2A: Visitors may continue to travel anywhere in the park that is not closed to travel, (in other words camp on a designated site but day trip only off of established travel routes). This is the preferred option.

OPTION 2B: Visitors may only travel and camp on established travel routes, identified by existing park-maintained portages and trails and campsites designated as described above (in other words camp only on designated sites and travel only on established travel routes.

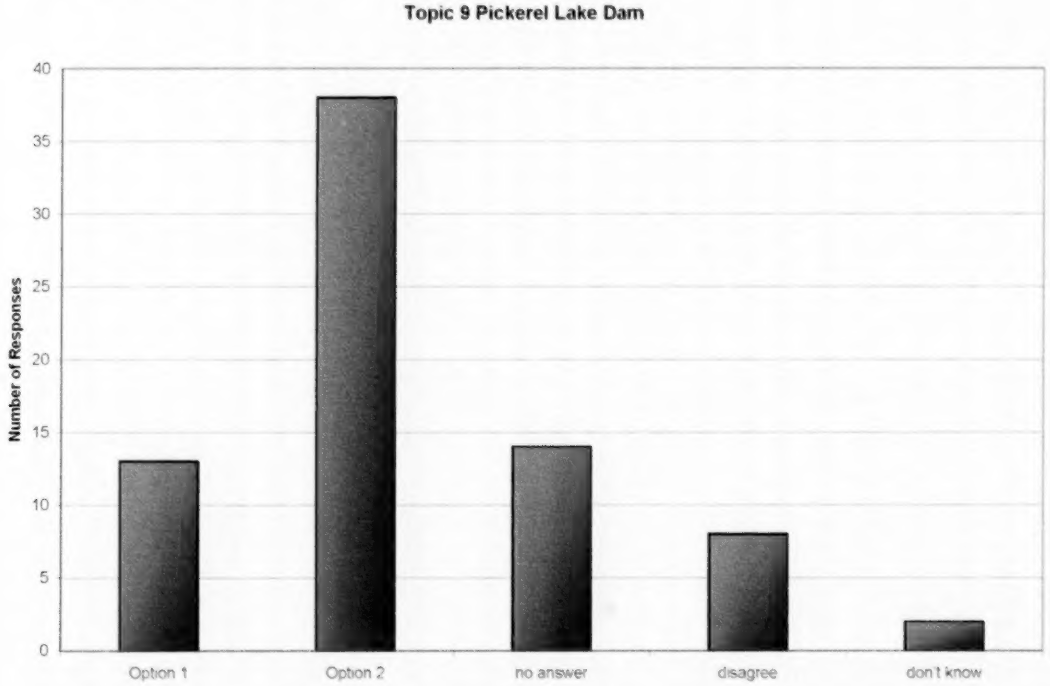
Overview of comments:

Strong support for the status quo Option 1 (74%) was expressed with eloquence and passion. Comments supporting the status quo option cited the freedom to travel and camp anywhere as one of the primary attractions of Quetico. Respondents expressed concern that there is no perceived need to restrict travel routes/campsites since off-site camping and travel are relatively rare and often in response to bad weather. Many commenters expressed support for restricting camping on smaller overused island sites, the provision of latrines on heavily used sites near entry points, and increased education about no trace camping and wilderness etiquette for park users. Commenters also do not support showing campsite locations on park maps.

How comments were considered:

Based upon consideration of the responses received, Option 1 was selected. This choice supports the provision of compatible outdoor recreation opportunities by providing for the continuation of the Quetico Park tradition of freedom to travel and to camp anywhere. Recognizing that unlimited travel and camping is implicit in a wilderness experience, park management retains the ability to temporarily close areas for reasons of safety, research and preservation. Proposed policy for this topic is found in section **8.1.2 and 8.1.5.**

Topic 9 Pickerel Lake Dam



Option 1: Quetico staff will continue to work with the Northwest Region MNR to monitor the condition of the Pickerel Lake dam and to undertake remedial actions (such as repair or stoplog replacement) to prevent dam failure and to maintain the present water levels. Subject to available resources should extensive repair or replacement of the existing structure be required, the creation of a spillway or weir type dam will be considered. This is the status quo option.

Option 2: Quetico Provincial Park will continue to work with the Northwest Region MNR to monitor the condition of the Pickerel Lake dam. Though the actual impacts of the dam's deterioration are somewhat speculative, we should be able to safely predict the outcome of the lake system's eventual return to historic levels. Currently, a study is being undertaken that will provide a more precise idea as to the effects on the lake that a change in water levels will have. As water levels drop, implications for day-use beaches and ease of canoe travel will be assessed; if necessary remedial restoration will be done to maintain/restore a minimum water level, subject to available resources. This is the preferred option.

Overview of comments:

Support was expressed for the preferred Option 2 (51%). Comments supporting the preferred option cited restoration of historic/natural water levels with concerns identified about maintaining navigability between French and Pickerel Lakes.

Comments supporting the status quo Option 1 (16%) cited impacts to navigability between French and Pickerel, impacts to the day-use beaches at Dawson Trail, and 100+ years of adaptation of lakes/fisheries to present water levels.

Comments supporting neither of the options (10%) cited the need to study the situation (ecological, social, cultural and economic) prior to altering water levels. Commenters also expressed concern about the availability of resources, impacts to fisheries and the maintenance of navigability between French and Pickerel Lakes.

How comments were considered:

Based upon consideration of the responses received, and the results of bathymetry undertaken on the Pickerel River between French and Pickerel Lakes, Option 1 was selected. This course of action will ensure the continued navigability of the waterways between French Lake Pickerel Lake and Batchewaung Lake, while maintaining the present aquatic habitat and fisheries of the lakes. Proposed policy for this topic is found in section **7.7.**

SUMMARY OF OPEN ENDED COMMENTS ON THE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

In addition to responding to the topics and options presented in the Management Options document, many respondents provided additional comments on a variety of topics. The summary below represents a synopsis of comments grouped by subject area. The bracketed number beside each heading refers to the number of individual comments received on each topic.

Ecological Integrity (18)

Many of the additional comments addressed the importance of maintaining ecological integrity (EI) in the development of management direction. Specific issues relating to EI included the importance of visitor education, managing invasive species, assessing impacts to EI before introducing new activities or commercial opportunities, as well as recognizing and valuing the linkages to nearby protected areas (Voyageurs National Park and Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness).

Specific comments regarding EI included many expressions of concern relating to the proposed hydroelectric development on the Namakan River adjacent to / abutting Quetico Park and the potential impacts of this development on the park's EI, including impacts to threatened / rare species such as Lake Sturgeon and the Pygmy Snaketail dragonfly. Strong criticism was expressed by several parties regarding the lack of inclusion of this topic in the Management Options stage of consultation, including requests for this stage of planning to be repeated to address the Namakan hydro development proposals. In addition to concerns relating to the Namakan development proposals impacts to Quetico Park's EI and that of the nearby protected areas, commenters also expressed concerns about impacts to the canoe routes associated with the Namakan.

Wilderness integrity (19)
Without specifically referring to EI many commenters expressed concerns about threats to the persistence / maintenance of the integrity of Quetico Park's wilderness, citing examples such as introducing new activities, introducing new commercial activities, expanding the footprint of development via the proposed threshold wilderness zone, and diverting Quetico from its primary recreational role as a wilderness canoeing destination. Commenters also addressed the lack of travel restrictions and its importance to the sense of freedom and solitude as integral to the wilderness experience. Several commenters expressed concerns regarding a perceived shift away from the fundamental values/objectives of Quetico's wilderness classification.

Cultural resources (2)
Support was expressed for the inventory and protection of archaeological and historical resources. Concerns were expressed about the need to implement policy to protect the integrity of Quetico's past. Specific concerns were raised about development proceeding in areas with known high cultural resource potential (Prairie Portage and French Lake) without adequate archaeological assessment and without the involvement of Lac La Croix First Nation as per the Agreement of Co-existence. Suggestions include the need for changes to be made in order that Quetico Park improve its stewardship of Ontario's archaeological heritage.

New activities (8)
Requests for consideration of new activities included permitting horseback riding in the Dawson Trail campground area and the provision of a 'bathing suit optional' designated area on French Lake. Requests were also made to raise the awareness of French Lake as a destination for seniors and RV use including extending the autumn campground operations and providing transportation for day trips from Atikokan. A request for increasing accessibility of French Lake and the Pickerel River for people with mobility impairments included the suggestion that small power boats be permitted. Concerns were expressed about permitting mountain bikes on wilderness trails, and permitting commercial dog sledding in the park.

Hunting (2)
Concerns were expressed that hunting for active wildlife management of deer populations in Quetico was not included in the management options. It was requested that local consultation on this topic be undertaken.

Batchewaung Road / Stanton Bay Road (3)
Suggestions included construction of a road to Batchewaung Lake and allowing US residents (independents)

to use the Stanton Bay access. Concerns were expressed regarding the undefined status of the Batchewaung Lake road proposal as a threat to the integrity of the wilderness character of Batchewaung Lake.

Human waste disposal (7)
Many commenters addressed the improper disposal of human waste as a chronic recreation management issue. Most suggested the provision of pit privies at (at least) heavily used campsites.

Park Fees (4)
Commenters indicated that interior park fees are too high and that high fees serve as a barrier to use (affordability) and that tiered fees serve to discourage southern entries.

Zoning (2)
Support was expressed for the creation of new nature reserve and historical zones.

Flight ceilings (4)
Support was expressed for a minimum altitude flight ceiling over Quetico.

Lac La Croix (4)
Commenters expressed uncertainty about the status and the future role of the Agreement of Coexistence, and questioned why the role of the Lac La Croix First Nation was not more explicit in the Management Options document. Support was expressed for the future phase-out of mechanized guiding.

Other topics (12)
The cumulative impacts associated with **youth groups** who use the same routes and campsites were raised as a concern that needs to be addressed in park management.
The implications for **park staffing** capacity relating to many of the management options topics were raised as a concern.
The absence of analysis of the **economic considerations** relating to the management options was questioned.
The effective administration for the **Certified Outfitter Program** was raised as a method to address a number of recreation management issues through proper visitor education.
The **use of motors by park staff** was raised as a concern. It was suggested that only electric motors be permitted in the park. Also the increased use of motors by park staff, in association with park sponsored activity and with management proposals for mechanized grooming and long distance trail development was identified as incompatible with wilderness objectives.
Support was expressed for the current management direction **not to replace historic logging dams** in the park.
The importance of **fire management** was identified as an integral component of park management.
The use of an independent, impartial body (such as the **Provincial Parks Council**) to conduct management plan reviews was suggested and the content of the current management options was cited as evidence of the bias of the current plan review team.
Portage maintenance was identified as a concern and the use of boardwalks or other trail hardening was suggested.
Campsite maintenance was identified and the removal of hazard trees near tent sites was suggested.